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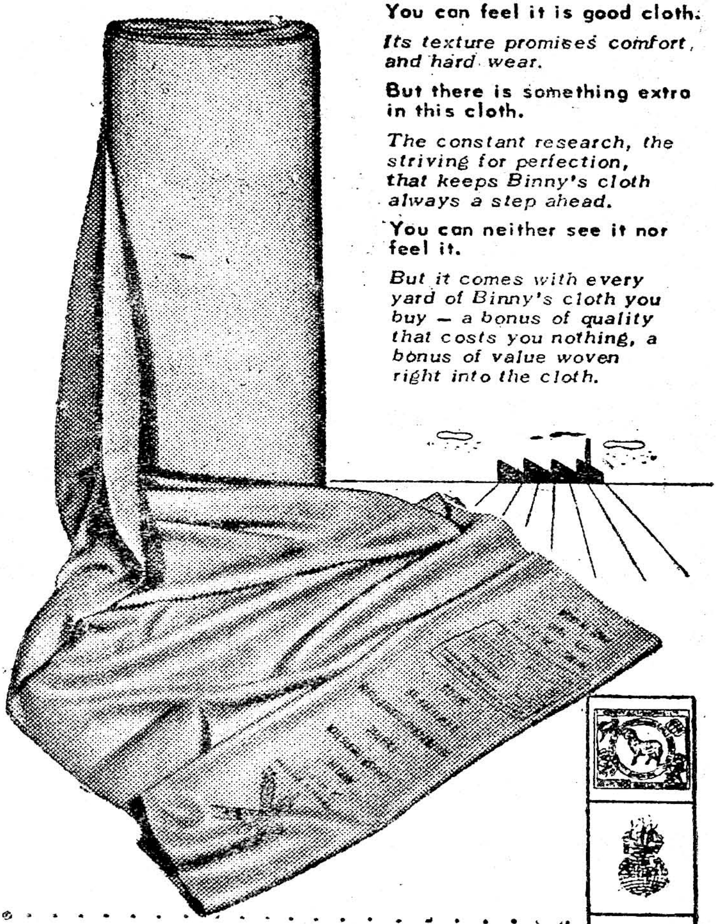

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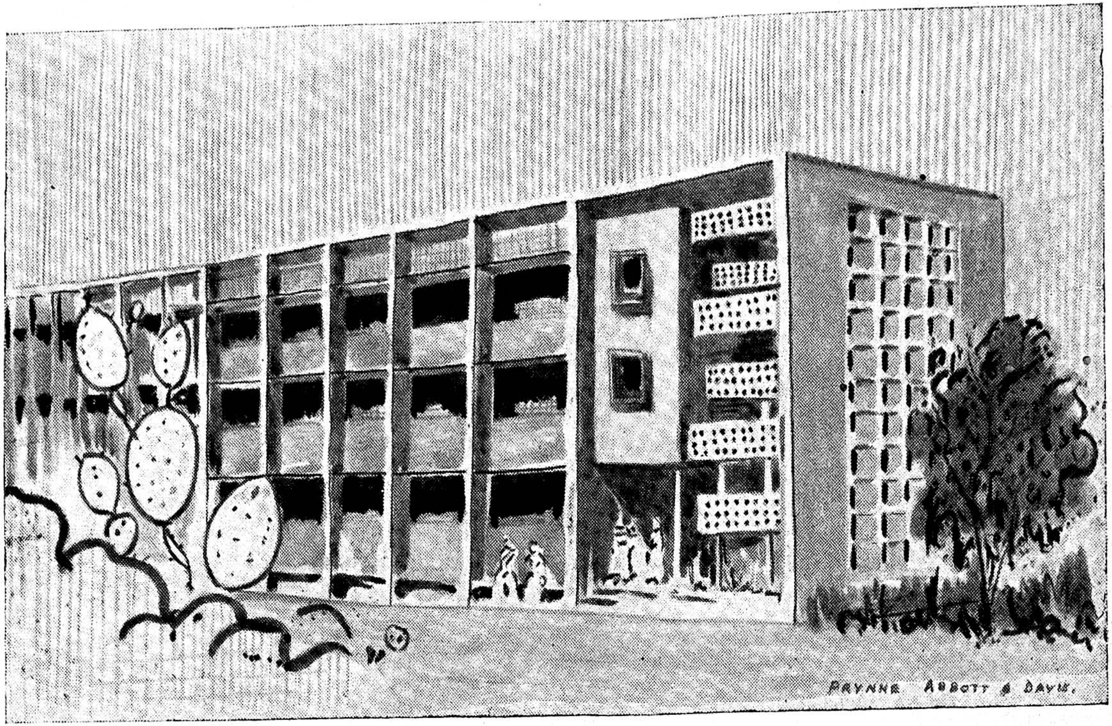

THE ARCHITECT'S DRAWING OF THE NEW HOME SCIENCE BLOCK

(See the Principal's Message)

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AN ALUMNAE MAGAZINE

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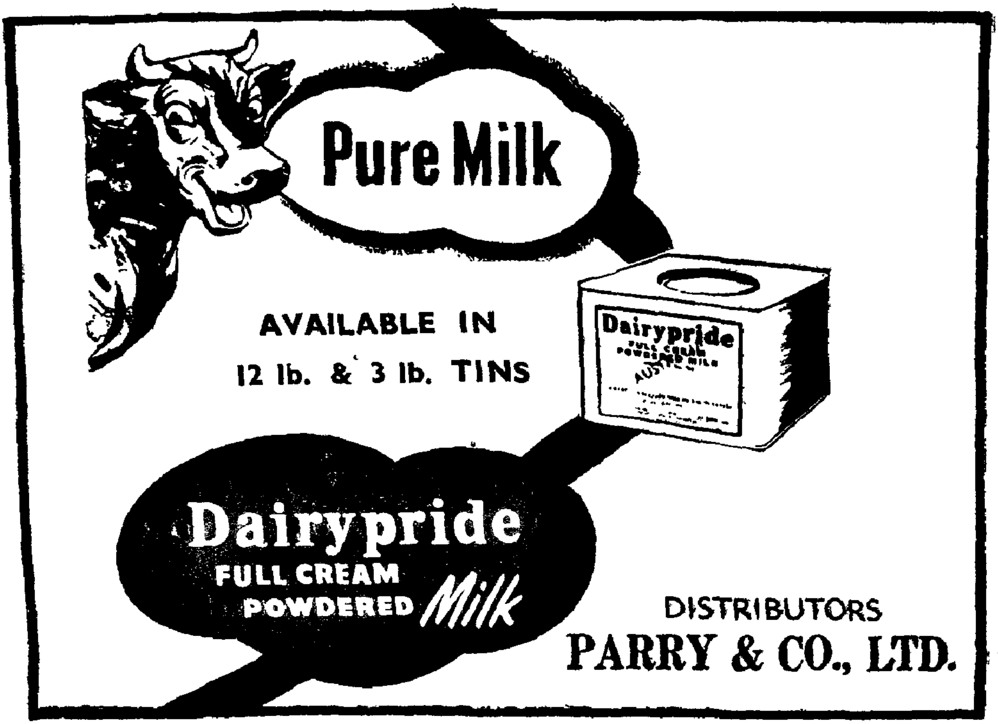

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THE COLLEGE CALENDAR, 1953-54

June 1953

21st. ... Staff Quiet Day, led by the Rev. Stanley Davis.
25th. ... College reopened. Orientation programme for freshers began.

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July

1st. ... Intercessions for the World Church—led by Miss Moore.
5th. ... College Quiet Day—led by Rev. Stanley Davis.
8th. ... Intercession for Social Work—led by Miss Gnanadickam.
10th. ... Assembly—Welcome to new members of Staff.
15th. ... S. C. M. Fresher's Social.
17th. ... Assembly—Election of Committees and discussion of firka development work.
18th. ... Madras Alumnae Club meeting.
22nd. ... Intercession for the University—led by Miss S. Thomas.
29th. ... Intercession for Trade and Industry—led by Miss Samuel.
31st. ... Assembly—Miss Dorothy Cocks spoke on Geography and International Understanding.

August

2nd. ... S. C. M. Candlelighting Service led by Miss Masillamani.
7th. ... Assembly—Prof. Sambamurthi of Madras University gave a talk on Musical Forms in South Indian Music, illustrated by 3 musicians.
12th. ... Intercession for Our Alumnae—led by Sakuntala Savarirayan.
14th. ... Assembly—Welcome to new Staff members and talk by Mr. Williams of the British Council on 18th century drama.
Non-residents had a tea-party in the garden.
15th. ... Independence Day. Holiday and celebrations.
18th. ... Half-holiday for Convocation.
19th. ... College Day holiday. Supplemental convocation. Alumnae Association meeting.
21st. ... Miss Lucy Burtt of the Society of Friends talked at Assembly about life in China under the communists.
28th. ... 1st performance of the Rivals.
29th. ... 2nd ,, ,, ,, ,,
31st. ... Holiday for Sri Krishna Jayanthi. 3rd performance of the Rivals.

September

3rd. ... Federation of University Women in India (Madras Branch) held a party in W. C. C. in honour of Dr. Frances Moran.
5th. ... Meeting of Madras Alumnae Club.
14th. ... College closed. Botany excursion to Ooty started.
15th. ... Indian History excursion to Ajanta and Ellora caves started.

October

8th. .... College reopened.
21st. ... W. C. C's first Rain-Holiday.
23rd. ... Assembly—Prof. Pierre Meile, professor of Modern Indian Languages, in the Institute of Oriental Studies, Paris, addressed the College. Prof. Robson of the London School of Economics met the History and Economics students.
30th. ... Miss Muriel Lester spoke at Assembly on the principles and work of the Fellowship of Reconciliation.
Miss Gladys Owen from Lucknow spoke to the History Association.

November

5th. ... Deepavali holiday.
6th. ... Assembly—United Nations Programme.
7th. ... College 'At Home'.
13th. ... Assembly—Report on Excursion to Ajanta Caves.
19th. ... Breaking of first sod for Home Science Block, with service of thanksgiving and dedication.
21st. ... Indian Languages Play.
24th. ... Selection Exams begin.
26th. ... American Thanksgiving Day Service in our Chapel.
28th. ... Madras Alumnae Club meeting.

December

1st. ... Dr. Leland Wyman, Professor of Biology at Boston University, gave a lecture to the Physiology class.
9th. ... Servants Christmas party.
10th. ... Human Rights Day (Unesco) Special prayer in Chapel.
12th. ... Combined Indian Dinner and Staff Christmas party.
17th. ... College closed.

Compliments from a friend of the College.

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January 1954

7th. ... College reopened.
8th. ... Memorial Service in our Chapel for Sara Joseph—Class IV B. Sc.
Assembly—Burke Lennihan and Dorothy Archibald, (Mount Holyoke '53) spoke about Mt. Holyoke and about International Work Camps of the World Council of Churches in Europe.
13th. ... Pongal holiday.
14th. ... " "
15th. ... Assembly—Mrs. Sugirtham Azariah (W.C.C. '23), Personal Secretary to Mrs. Durgabai Deshmukh, spoke to Staff and Students.
20th. ... Intercession for Church of South India—led by Miss. Janet David of C. S. V.
23rd. ... Madras Alumnæ Club meeting.
26th. ... Republic Day holiday.
29th. ... Assembly—Miss Rowe spoke to students about the proposed Point System.
30th. ... Tamil Convention of Madras Colleges held in our Assembly Hall.
S. C. M. Religious Drama Festival. W. C. C. presented scenes from Pilgrim's Progress.

February

4th. ... Ceylon Independence Day.
5th. ... Assembly—Nominations of office-bearers for College Union.
6th. ... N. M. S. area prayer—meeting held in our Chapel.
10th. ... Intercession for those who suffer—led by Miss Mason. College photograph taken.
12th. ... Elections for College Union.—
President : Anna Vareed.
Vice-President : Elizabeth Joseph.
Secretary : Gita Nair.
13th. ... Meeting of Madras Psychological Conference held in W. C. C.
19th. .. College Union Elections.
24th. ... Intercessions for our Country—led by Miss E. Theophilus.
26th. ... College Sports.
27th. ... 'Spring Sing' held in Main Hostel garden.
28th. ... S. C. M. College Service—led by Thevamalar Nagamuthu.

March

2nd. ... Staff party for Class IV. Initiation to Alumnæ Association by Miss G. Samuel.
5th. ... Assembly—Language prizes distributed by the Principal.
Nutrition Exhibition opened by High Commissioner for Canada.
Last day of classes.
6th. ... Nutrition Exhibition open all day. Hostel party.
8th. ... Staff vs. Class IV Baseball match.
10th. ... Exams. began for Junior classes.
13th. ... Meeting of Madras Alumnæ Club.
18th. ... College closed.

Editorial

The *Sunflower*, which started its career as a College Magazine, is as old as the college. The first number of the *Sunflower*, which bears the date 1915–1916, is called 'A Year's Record.' The magazine got its name the next year. In the beginning, the purpose of the *Sunflower* was to record the year to year activities of the college. The 1948 number of the magazine marks a big change in its history, which is referred to in the editorial for that number thus:

'This is the first number of the *Sunflower* in its new form. It emerges as the Magazine of the Old Students'.

As the Old Students' magazine, the object of the *Sunflower* now is to give its readers news of the Old Students of the college and act as a link connecting the Alumnæ with their Alma Mater and to give the Old Students themselves, isolated and scattered all over the world, a sense of solidarity. This the *Sunflower* has tried its best to do, but not very successfully, it must be confessed, and for the very natural reason that the Executive Secretary of the Alumnæ Association, who has always been a staff member doing a full time job in college, has found it impossible to give the time and energy required to collect, collate and co-ordinate the changing names and addresses and news of Old Students through the years. And so the section dealing with the news of Alumnæ in the magazine has invariably been meagre and unsatisfactory and not as full as we would have wished it to be. We hope that this state of affairs will soon be rectified, as the College Council has expressed its confidence in the value of the A. A. work by granting its permission to the engaging of a part-time worker—a Secretary-typist to the Executive Secretary of the A. A. The College will pay the salary of this person—Rs. 600 in full for two years and then Rs. 400, Rs. 200, and Rs. 100 for the following three years, with the A. A. assuming the increasing balance. It is hoped that at the end of the period the A. A. will be able to assume full responsibility for the salary of this person. We welcome this new helper (Radha Bhat, an old student of the college 1948–1952) by whose efforts, acting under the direction of the Executive Secretary of the Association, we hope that the files referring to the Alumnæ will be brought up to date and our contacts with Old Students maintained and extended.

Another thing that requires comment is the change in size and content of the magazine. One innovation is the 'News of Departments.' Another is articles from husbands of old Students (See Dr. Raju's article on Smokeless Kitchens and Mr. B. Appasamy's on Working Mothers.) We would like to take this opportunity to record our grateful thanks to Mr. Appasamy who is the husband of Mercy Appasamy, nèe Vedamuthu. He is on the staff of 'The Hindu' and this year, at our request, has been very generous and kind in giving us the benefit of his expert advice and suggestions as to the format of the Magazine.

Yet another change is the phenomenal increase in the number of advertisements and cards of compliment—there were only two cards of compliment in the last number. We are proud to record the fact that the advertisements together with cards of compliment this year will bring us in a sum of Rs. 1,520. It makes us very happy to be able to say that the regional clubs have co-operated most generously in this effort to increase the income of the *Sunflower*; the object of which has been not merely to make the Magazine financially self-sufficient but also to lay by a good amount which could be utilised toward meeting the running expenses of the A. A. and the salary of the part-time worker.

We should like to draw the attention of the readers to a change in the landscape of the College campus, namely the new building which has been erected towards the south face of our lovely Science Building. From July 1954 this new building will house the Nutrition department.

For the *Sunflower* and the Alumnæ Association this has been a year of changes; and while they prove that we are no enemy to change when we find change is for the best, yet we would like to say that we are in no danger of forgetting the wise proverb, 'Old is Gold.' We can assure our Old Students that their Alma Mater today is essentially what she was when they were students—in her ideals and in her traditions of Prayer and Fellowship, honest Scholarship and unselfish Service.

Greetings from the Principal

KODAIKANAL.
June 5, 1954.

DEAR ALUMNAE AND FRIENDS,

By the time you read this we shall have opened another building, the new Home Science Block. It will greet you as you enter the compound, at the south end of the Science Building. When I left Madras in April it was not far enough along to give one a clear impression of what it would finally look like. We have such a glorious group of buildings framing our two gardens — the large outer garden before Doveton House and the Science Building, with the clock tower standing in the centre, and the inner one enclosed by the hostel and the chapel colonnades — *that one is fearful about each new building — will it be in harmony or will it* jar? Our young architect, Mr. Bennett Pithavadian, believes that we should be modern and has introduced modern features into this new block. However, it is so placed that it will make a new little enclosure with the south end of the Science Building with its own particular character and charm, without intruding upon the old-fashioned stately beauty set by the great pillars of Doveton House. There are hopes that if we can raise money enough from alumnae and friends in India, we may before long have a cafeteria wing there, both for practical training for the Home Science students and to fill a real need for an arrangement and place for parties which can be planned and carried through by students and staff without dependence on College kitchens and the regular domestic servants. A community of women needs opportunities for expressing homeliness and hospitality that are not possible with our present hostel arrangements. Each time we have planned a new hostel we have dreamed of a small kitchenette where students or staff could do a little cooking but each time dreams faded before hard financial facts. Now there is a new opportunity. If any of you would like to help toward making this dream a reality we shall be very happy to receive gifts.

Mrs. Philip of the Nutrition Department has been the moving spirit in collecting over Rs. 10,000 from India, in small gifts, toward the speical building and equipment needs of the department. It has been thrilling to see the way she has worked and inspired others to work toward this need but we cannot tell at this stage how much of it may be left to make a nucleus for the 'cafeteria fund'.

May I add a word especially for alumnae? We do want you to come back to visit the College. If you can come at the time of the annual Alumnae Day in August you will meet more old friends than at other times, but if you can come to Madras at any other time and stay two or three days and share once again in our ordinary day-to-day life, you will be very welcome. Will not alumnae mothers, who have daughters in college, accept this invitation? Some others of you may hesitate to come feeling that you will not know anyone. Do you realize that among the staff we represent a wide spread of college generations right back to the year 1921-52, so that you will be sure to find some whom you know? And even if you don't, you are truly a part of the College and we hope you will find that it is really coming home. Please write to me, if you can come, or to Miss Elizabeth Theophilus, Alumnae Secretary.

Just yesterday I had a letter from Miss McDougall from 14 Sheen Common Drive, Richmond, Surrey, England. Edith D'Lima, Senior student of the class of 1925 who had arrived in England the day before, had been to see her, and she had been greatly touched. Her thoughts and love and prayers are with us from day to day, and so are Miss Rivett's and Miss George's. Miss George came back again in April for a really good visit, looking better than she has for many years and it was lovely to have her. Miss Rivett has not yet managed to re-visit India but she is closely in touch with many through her letters and we hope that before very long she too can return to us.

With warmest greetings and all good wishes to you all, wherever you are,

Yours affectionately,
ELEANOR D. MASON,

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A DREAM HAS COME TRUE

RADHABHAI BHAT

Some of us associated with the work of the Alumnae Association have dreamt of many possibilities of building up the work of the Alumnae Office. One such possibility has been carefully considered and acted upon by the Alumnae Executive. It is the appointment of a part-time Secretarial Assistant from July 1st 1954. Miss Radhabai Bhat, the new Secretarial Assistant elect, studied in the College from 1948 to 1952. She is a philosophy graduate and has been a faithful alumna and an active member of the Madras Club. We have made use of her voluntary service in many ways, in the last 2 years, specially the last 6 months. She also brought luck in her trail to the Alumnae Office. The Alumnae Office is now very proud to possess a type-writer and a quiet corner to work, with lovely tables and extra space to spread out. Thus a long-felt need has been met and a dream has come true! But the reality and realisation of the dream can last only if we accept its financial implications. So, come forward to support generously the Alumnae Office fund!

ELIZABETH THEOPHILUS,
Secretary of the Alumnae Association.

Compliments of Old Students in Coimbatore:

Mrs. Nevamonie Stephen '17; Mrs. Grace Marsh '28;
Mrs. Soundram Somasundaram '29; Mrs. Hallu David;
Mrs. Daisy Daniel '30; Mrs. Helen Koilpillai '39;
Mrs. Leela David '41; Mrs. Kathleen David '45;
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COLLEGE DAY

THROUGH THE EYES OF AN EARLY GRADUATE—Mrs. PITHAVADIAN*

Of all the bright young things that gathered in College on Old Students' Day why the editor pitched on an old timer like me to write an account of it for the *Sunflower* I do not know, but here it is . . . .

Our Alma Mater is diligent in keeping touch with old students. As in a family, parents and grown-up children both stand to gain by retaining their connection with one another, so in the college family both college and alumnae have much to gain by coming together a least once a year. But children do not always prize the link with the mother so much as the mother prizes the link with her children. She it is who keeps writing to them even when they do not write back. And I have known through more than 30 years, successive members of staff who, as Secretaries of the Alumnae Association have laboured to track down addresses of alumnae and send to them invitations and copies of the *Sunflower*—tokens of the concern of the Alma Mater to retain the bond of fellowship with her daughters.

The 19th of August 1953 was College Day. The Executive Committee of the Alumnae Association had drawn up an interesting programme and sent the invitations far and wide urging old students to come. An innovation long overdue was that old students paid Re. 1 for their hospitality to save present students the strain of entertaining old students. However, students who had left in 1917 and 1918 were treated as guests and did not have to pay.

Tea was served under the mango trees near the green stage behind the chapel. Old girls resident in the city who had not shared in the lunch at 1 p.m. or the class reunions at 3 o'clock, came in for tea and there was much noise and happy laughter as friends met friends whom they had not seen perhaps since the days they were in college together. Vida David (1920) who had triumphed over the blindness that overtook her twelve years ago and was serving as head of the branch of the Seva Sedan in Tambaram was there surrounded by friends.

At 5.15 p.m. was the alumnae parade. Old girls belonging to the reunion years 1917 and 1918, '23, '28, 33, '38, '43, '48 and '53 lined up in the western colonnade of the chapel, behind the banner bearing their year, all dressed in orange of varying shades. They marched off to the College hall in the Science building accompanied by singing and clapping by the student guard-of-honour who marked the route. The rest of the old girls followed and soon the business meeting was in progress.

After the welcome by the President, reports and greetings from Regional clubs were read. The Nursery School in Mohammedan's Gardens established by old students as a memorial to Miss McDougall was doing very good work, only the money for running expenses was being raised by present students (not directly by old students) by means of their annual entertainment. Money was needed for the purchase of a piece of land adjacent to the School. A gift of Rs. 30 towards this purchase was announced by the four special guests—old students of 1917 and 1918.

To worship in the chapel, to eat with one's friends in the old dining hall where one had sat in bygone years with Miss McDougall, Miss Coon, Miss Rivett or Miss George and others, to hear the old choruses in praise of the College and new ones too, sung lustily by young voices in the College hall were thrills indeed!

Distinctions won by the graduates of the year made one glow with pride in the old College. Scenes from 'Little Women' acted very prettily by the students brought us to the end of a perfect day and we left feeling happy we belonged to that blessed institution.

* *Mrs Pithavadian, née Lily Anne Devasagayam,* B.A. (1915–'17) *is the mother of Mr. Bennet Pithavadian, architect of our new Home Science block.*

Best Wishes from the

Georgetown Group at C.S.M. Girls' Day High School

and Mrs. D. DAVID

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ALUMNAE DAY—1953

(A RECENT GRADUATE'S IMPRESSION)

The 19th of August, 1953, was a red-letter day in the pages of W.C.C. Alumnae history. The College Day was celebrated with a grandeur that excelled the record of previous years. That there was a greater degree of colour and liveliness added to the general excitement was amply evident.

An interesting new feature of the year was the Re-union Class system. Students of particular years—namely, 1917, '18, '23, '28, '33, '38, '43 and '48 were specially invited to re-une, while the special guests of the day were the graduates of the year.

The function proper was to start only at 4-30 p.m. However, a few guests were present even earlier and it was great fun to entertain them at the mobile canteen (which was, again, a new idea that was successfully carried out) in the afternoon. This time, tea was served not at Doveton House but in the open air near the Green Stage. The party went off very well. It was a sort of family gathering, a happy reunion in its full sense. The staff acted the part of hostesses to the best of their abilities. It was at this time that the attention of the guests was captured by the presentation of a pretty, coloured cake in the shape of India, that was specially got up for the occasion. Red spots were visible on it, indicating the various club centres in India and Ceylon, wherein pretty little candles had been fixed. There was a roll-call of the regional clubs when club-representatives went forward and lighted the respective candles. Casting one's thoughts back, one cannot, even now, forget the beauty and solemnity of that precious hour.

REUNION OF EARLIEST GRADUATES ON ALUMNAE DAY

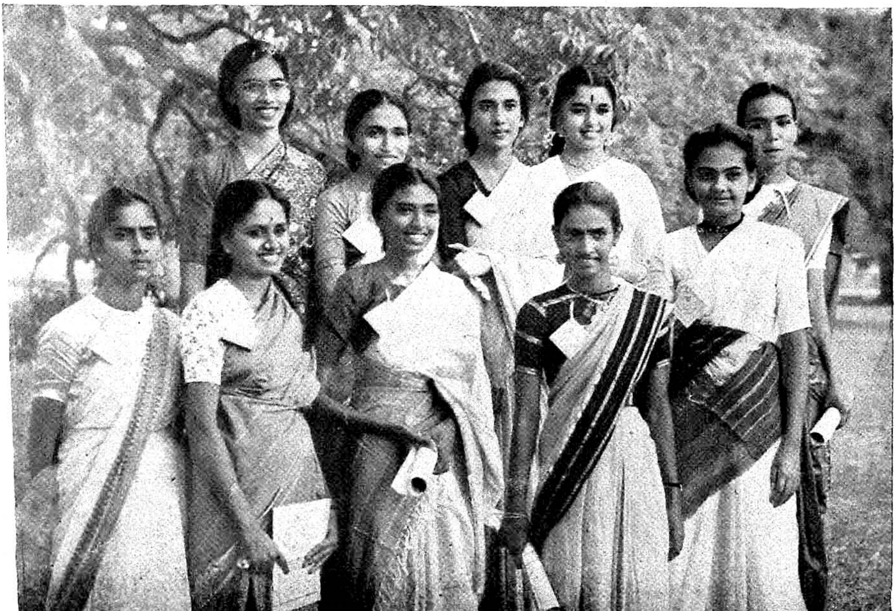
It was as if novelties were never to end that day. At 5-15 p.m. the alumnae, in batches of different years—starting right back from 1917—marched in procession, to the merry accompaniment of marching songs, from near the chapel to the Assembly Hall. The 'reunion classes' were the prominent members of the parade, wearing special badges in varied colours indicating the different years. There were two Old Students to represent even the oldest batch of Alumnae. It was rather a pageant of W.C.C. history which surely, for a moment at least, made one pause and reflect on the magnitude of Time that moves on and on waiting for no one.

It was not, however, a time for reflections. One had to shake oneself and take part in the Business Meeting that was next held in the beautifully decorated Assembly hall. After the impressive Chain of Unity service, messages of the different regional clubs were read by Miss E. Theophilus, the Secretary. Next followed the business of the day and the election of office-bearers. The 1953 Intermediates were duly initiated into the Association.

What a beautiful picture met our eyes as we came out of the Hall! The shrubs near the porch of Doveton House had been fitted with coloured bulbs and were all ablaze.

The chapel service, dinner, presentation of the graduates and the variety entertainment (the latter was short and sweet, indeed) followed one by one in due course. On the whole, what one experienced at the end of the gala day was a feeling of pride in our dear college and immense admiration for the ability and efficiency with which the whole function was organised.

A GRADUATE OF 1951



HOME SCIENCE GRADUATES OF 1953

BATAK LAND IN SUMATRA

By SAROJINI DEVANESAN

Indonesia consists of many, many islands, the main ones being—Java, Sumatra, Borneo and Celebes. Sumatra is quite a big tropical land with its total area of 170,000 square miles.

It is a beautiful land where you could see nature in all its splendour—the chain of hills, thick forests, stretches of rubber estates, palm groves, wide areas of beautiful green paddy fields and the enchanting Toba lake are but a few specimens.

Batak Land in which we live is in the northern highlands of Sumatra. It is about 2,000 to 4,000 feet above sea level and is encircled by high mountain ranges, most of them extinct volcanoes. The Bataks who occupy this part of the land are a very interesting community of people. Next to the Jews, the Bataks are the people who maintain their genealogical register for many generations. Similar to the tribal system of the Jews the Bataks have what is known as 'Margas'. Each marga is derived from an 'Ompu' (grandfather) who was a kind of Patriarch. Each 'marga' is affiliated to a 'huta' (village) which bears the name of the marga.

Marriage within the same marga is prohibited.

Thirty per cent of Bataks are Christians. They are of robust health bodily as well as mentally. Like the Travancoreans the Bataks have their own lands. Every Batak has his own field on which his family members work. On the whole they are very decent people.

Even though they are very much westernized outwardly they keep to their 'adat' (tribal customs). In one sense they are among the most democratic people. They have no class or caste distinctions and master-servant difference is very scarcely noticed. In fact few homes have servants as such. They have helpers, who are treated as members of the family. The striking thing about the Bataks is the fact that they are all gifted singers and they possess strong melodious voices. They love singing and it is really enchanting to hear them sing in parts.

The tribal customs of the Bataks are called the 'adat' which affect every phase of their life—birth, baptism, marriage, death, visits of guests, harvest, etc. At every important function there is inevitably a 'pesta' or fellowship meal which among Christians can very well be called 'Agape'; for one can see very clearly the brotherliness and Christian unity. In olden days (i.e. before they became Christians) these 'pestas' were accompanied by drums, pipes, singing and dancing. These are prohibited now but are happily substituted by prayer, singing and reading of the Bible. It is noteworthy that many such ancient tribal customs have been adapted to the Christian community life.

'The evangelisation of the Bataks has been one of the most marvellous stories in the missionary enterprise.' The original religion of the Bataks was a kind of animism and nature worship.

Many of them have been won over to Islam. The end of the 18th century and early part of the 19th century were periods of great strain for Batak Land owing to the forced conversion to Mohammedanism. As a result of Mohammedan massacres fear and suspicion prevailed everywhere.

It was at this time (1834) the two American missionaries Munson and Lyman reached Batak Land. The Bataks met them in hostility mistaking them for moslem spies. The missionaries did not know the local language to express themselves. The interpreter and the coolies who accompanied them left them in the lurch and ran away in fear. The frenzied natives attacked the missionaries with spears and guns and killed them and had their flesh for a gruesome meal. The missionaries had their own guns with which they could have saved themselves but they magnanimously sacrificed their lives for the glory of God.

Best Wishes from Miss M. Kuruvilla.

Truly the blood of the two martyrs has become the seed of the Church for within a century there have been nearly half a million converts in Batak Land.

'The reputation of the Batak people as a fierce tribe became a sort of challenge to the missionary enterprise.' It was this fact that led to the opening up of work by the Rhenish Mission in 1863. Ingwer Lodewijk Nommensen the Rhenish Missionary (from Germany) came in 1864 and he is regarded to be the real founder of Christianity in Batak Land. The Bataks call him 'Ompu' (grandfather) and have very great respect and affection for him. In the beginning he also had to face great difficulties. People mistook him for a company agent and they wanted him to quit their land.

Nommensen made it clear to them that he was not an agent of any company and he would not leave the land even if it cost him his life. For quite a long time he had to face hostility but gradually people became friendly with him. One particular tribal chief Hutabarat tried to kill Nommensen during a great festival but failed and later he became a good friend of this great missionary. Nommensen, after living a witnessing life, died in Batak Land in the year 1918. He is no more but yet his voice speaketh.

Now the total number of the Batak Christians is 600,000—the biggest single Protestant denomination in South East Asia. Their Church is called Huria Kristen Batak Protestant (The Batak Protestant Church) and has at its head a Batak Ephorus (President) who is elected once in 4 years.

The Seminarium in Sipoholon can be looked upon as the nucleus of the Batak Church—for it is here the Batak Pastors are trained. Sipoholon (it is here that we live) is on top of a hill 3000 feet above sea level. It is a campus where there are many educational and religious institutions—namely the High School, the Teacher's Training School and the Theological School. In all there are about a thousand students (boys and girls) who live in their respective hostels. Out of this the Theological Students are only 41 (39 boys and 2 girls) whom my husband teaches. The teachers also live here with their families. The only foreigners connected with the Theological School are Dr. and Mrs. Bendtz (American) Dr. and Mrs. Tiemeier (German) and ourselves. There are quite a number of other missionaries working for the Batak Church in other parts of this land. Recently many German and Dutch medical missionaries have come here. Dr. Williams is the only Indian Medical missionary in Batak Land. He lives with his wife 150 miles away from us and it is not easy for us to meet one another. We are the only two Indian families in Batak Land.

When I accompanied my husband to this place in 1951 I could not imagine myself living here; in this lonely place. Apart from the institutions there is nothing here and the nearest town, Tarutung, is 5 miles away. Conveyance is a real problem. Very rarely, we go for an outing with the help of the Church car. This secluded life and the fact that I did not know the Batak language made me feel miserable and lonely; but after a few months I began to feel at home. The womenfolk here (wives of teachers) understood my loneliness and they untiringly came to keep company with me though we could not talk with one another (they did not know English and I did not know Batak). Often they brought gifts such as rice, chicken, eggs, various kinds of fruits and vegetables. It is not what they brought but the love and affection behind these gifts that touched me very much. Soon I began to like them and to feel one with them. Now I have learnt the language and feel quite at home here. Moreover our little girl Saulina keeps me occupied most of the time. During my stay here I have learnt many good lessons of life.

Compliments of P. T. Bhanumathi.

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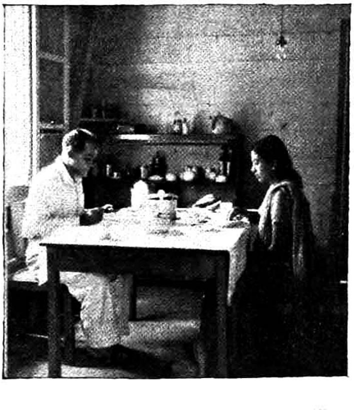
By meeting various nationalities—Chinese, Dutch, Germans, Americans and the Bataks my eyes have been opened to humanity at large. Outwardly there are such a lot of differences between the people of one country and another but as human beings we all are one, with the same likings, longings, and emotions. The fact that there are Christians all over the world binds us still closer together.

Though we are Indians in a strange land we feel one with the people here, by the fact that we are all children of the same Heavenly Father.

Mrs. Devanesan, née Sarojini Gopalakrishnan (B.A., 1947) is now in Indonesia, her address being:

Seminarium HKBP, Sipoholon, Tarutung, Sumatra.



THE DEVANESANS AT HOME IN INDONESIA

A DISTINGUISHED ALUMNA

An extract from a letter to the A. A. Secy. from Miss Rivett, Correspondent of the W.C.C. Overseas Club.

30 McIntosh St.
Gordon, Sydney
7-5-54

MY DEAR ELSIE,

I thought the A. A. might like to have some news of one of our Alumnae, specially as she will not be returning to India until the end of the year.

The enclosed programme is by no means the complete story of the very full time Dr. Rajah B. Manikam and his wife, Ruby, are having in Australia: a similar series of engagements awaits them in New Zealand, and then by devious ways they hope eventually to be at the meeting of the World Council of Churches at Evanston, U.S.A., in August.

When Dr. Manikam was appointed Joint Secretary for S.E. Asia of the International Missionary Council of the World Council of Churches, it was as an ambassador of good will that he was sent. His talks and his wife's have shown us what splendid ambassadors they have been among the churches of all these lands we now call in Australia 'Our Near North'.

I felt so proud of Mrs. Manikam as she told of their visitation of isolated Churches, Churches that had suffered persecution and the havoc caused by war. She certainly does live up to our College ideal—'Lighted to Lighten'. Everywhere, whether to University groups, to Asian students here under the Colombo plan, to migrants and refugees from Europe, to Churches, to Conferences, to the Y.W.C.A. or other bodies, always she spoke so well of her own country and also the other countries in their 'parish', and made us understand the kind of lives women now-a-days are living and the need of friendship and understanding.

One day, the only day in Sydney when they both had a holiday, I stole them away from the Archbishop's House (you remember Dr. Morrel, I expect, at Willingen: he was at Tambaram too in 1938). We drove through the city and to my home for lunch. Afterwards, while my sister took them through the garden, I made the best South Indian coffee I am capable of making! Then we went by car right into the Bush, miles away, where we could get glimpses of the Pacific, and occasionally of the inland waterways that are such a feature of this part of Australia. We picnicked on a rocky hillside, among the trees, chatted about so many of our friends and then drove back, about 25 miles, to their abode in time for 6 p.m. dinner. It was such a lovely day, and I know, for they have said so, several times, it was their only real break from public gathering and the necessity to make speeches and carry on their splendid work of interpreting 'Our Near North' to us in Australia, and they did need this pause.

Ever affectionately yours,

ELEANOR RIVETT

RUBY MANIKAM

RESULTS OF THE SUNFLOWER

1953-54 Fund Raising Effort

Here is the announcement we have been eager to make: This year fifteen Old Students Clubs of Women's Christian College and four Scattered Groups, as well as the *Sunflower* Editorial Board, cooperated in the effort to raise funds for carrying on the work of the Alumnae Association by securing advertisements and cards of compliment for the 1953–54 issue. The results have gone far beyond our expectations! With pride and gratitude we salute each individual who had a part in the Effort. We thank each Advertiser for his support.

Name of Organisation		*Rupee-value of space sold* Rs.	A.	P.
The Women's Christian College Club of—				
Alwaye	...	5	0	0
Bangalore	...	95	0	0
Bombay	...	35	0	0
Calicut	...	25	0	0
Colombo*	...	40	0	0
Guntur	...	5	0	0
Jaffna	...	15	0	0
Madras	...	490	0	0
Madura	...	25	0	0
Nagercoil	...	5	0	0
Palamcottah	...	10	0	0
Quilon	...	25	0	0
Sunflower Board	...	665	0	0
Tanjore	...	5	0	0
Tiruvella	...	30	0	0
Vellore	...	5	0	0
Scattered Members Groups—				
Coimbatore	...	15	0	0
Deccan	...	5	0	0
West Bengal	...	10	0	0
English Associate Board.		10	0	0
Grand Total	...	1,520	0	0

* The Colombo Club has made an additional gift to the College of Rs. 110-0-0.

Social Welfare Activities in the National Planning

Our country is a vast one, her natural resources are inexhaustible and man power enormous, yet paradoxically enough, she has within her boundaries poverty, want and suffering, ignorance, sickness and famine on a scale hard to find anywhere else in the world. Causes for these are various but they make a familiar refrain. The question rather is how these conditions are to be remedied and the numerous ills rectified. We are a free, democratic nation, and zealously we prize our independence. The Government is of ourselves and for ourselves, and this being so it is the concern of every one of us as well as the Government to remove the disabilities and handicaps that dwarf our nation's greatness.

Our Government have taken this responsibility seriously and have given expression to their sincere concern among others, in the setting up of the Planning Commission which has drawn up 'the first Five Year Plan'. The plan envisages these difficulties and has carefully planned an all-comprehensive programme. Its ideal is to see that India emerges as a Welfare State, wherein not merely the fundamental needs of man find satisfaction but where the people live busy, contented and happy lives, deriving pleasure out of social and family life. Considering the magnitude of the problems to be tackled, with the available resources, the plan is a challenge to the people to rise up as one person to work towards their own betterment and the fuller development of the Country's resources.

It will be a travesty of truth if it is denied that Social Problems in our Country are our greatest obstacles to steady and speedy progress. Though the constitution assures all citizens 'Social justice' in the abstract, it can only be realised fully in practice if people supplement the efforts of the state by willing co-operation. It has been found that throughout the country there are a large number of Voluntary Organisations, begun by missionaries, great pioneers and patriots. They have successfully and devotedly tackled various social problems under trying conditions. Most of these social problems relate to women, children, youth, the family and the underprivileged groups. The National Plan is based on the understanding that the Centre, the states and local governments will take on themselves greater and greater measures of responsibility towards the correct solution of our social problems. But the greater responsibility, namely the human approach, the detailed methods and selfless personnel, have to be contributed by voluntary organisations. It has been my privilege to come into close touch with several welfare Institutions and tried individual workers, known and silent, and I can vouch for the wonderful and inspiring way in which they have been contributing, without expectation of any reward or recognition, towards the relief and assistance of those in need. That augurs well : indeed that is the nucleus from which we hope to draw greater enthusiasm and effort for the implementation of the social welfare programme. What is now needed is not recognition : it is already theirs, by virtue of their substantial service. What is wanted is rather an invitation to them to join the National enterprise in this great adventure of helping each other and this is exactly the main object.

A sum of 4 crores has been set apart to strengthen, improve and expand the scope of the services of the voluntary social welfare organisations.

In order to administer the fund, The Central Social Welfare Board has been set up vested with a large amount of administrative powers. This Body which came into existence by resolution of the Government of India, is under the administrative control of the Union Education Ministry and Finance. It was inaugurated on the 13th of August 1953 for the period of one year with a membership of Eleven Persons including the Chairman. The Members are all tried and experienced workers for the social welfare of our people

" Some men only require a great difficulty set in their way, to exhibit the force of their charity and genius."

Mrs H. S. Charles, 1918—'20 *and* '23—'30.

with one member from the House of the People, one from the Council of State, and four members representing the Ministry of Education, Health, Finance and Labour, respectively.

It is the aim and object of the Board to provide assistance and guidance to Voluntary Social Welfare Organisations in the Country which stand in need of help with the sum of 4 crores of rupees made available for this purpose. Its functions include a survey and assessment of the needs and requirements of voluntary welfare organisations in the country; an 'evaluation of the programme and co-ordination of assistance under the ministries of the Central and State Governments and sanction of grants-in-aid to deserving organisations'. The non-official members of the Board are expected to tour whenever possible and the Chairman herself has travelled widely, covering Assam, West Bengal, Orissa, Andhra, Madras, etc. The Board has set up Advisory Panels consisting of a Chairman and four members and a Secretary who have made extensive tours of the provinces.—They visit voluntary social welfare institutions with a view to help them to develop, expand and strengthen their work. In this way the problems and needs of the Institutions are assessed and suitable assistance recommended. The Panels placed in the order of priority are the Children's Welfare Panel, the Women's Welfare Panel, the Panel for the Physically Handicapped, the Mentally Deficient and the Juvenile Delinquents etc. In making the grants-in-aid these priorities are maintained although much thought is bestowed on the many institutions that deal with the general welfare of the people. Madras, Mysore, Bangalore, Hyderabad and Travancore-Cochin State; Bombay and Guzerat; Bihar and Vindhya Pradesh; have been already visited as well as Assam, West Bengal and Orissa. Four hundred and eighty five institutions have been given grants amounting to very nearly 16 lacs of Rupees. In the award of these grants the Board has set principles and rules to guide them as well as taking the recommendations of the Panels. In the order of grants sent out to applicant organisations stipulations are laid down, on acceptance of which the grant is issued in two lots. Such ample publicity has been given to the rules and regulations that bind the Board in its powers to issue the grants that it will be superfluous to repeat them but the underlying thought is to give financial aid, not for buildings nor for day-to-day overhead charges, but for development of actual social amenities, in which feeding and caring for children, providing for suitable activities of women, and caring for the handicapped, take the prime importance. It is no exaggeration to claim that owing to the visits of the Advisory Panels who have spared no pains to get down to the level of the problems, intimate contacts have been made with the people and a lasting enthusiasm has been created for helping towards the work of enrichment of the Country's Life. The press has given full voice to the appreciation of the people—'National Planning was a thing in the distance up to now with which we had very little contact . . . But now we feel we belong to it and can do our bit as we have been doing so far'—is one of the many unsolicited appreciations that pour in daily at the Board's office from Voluntary Social Welfare Organisations.

It has been said erstwhile that India lives in her villages. The creation of the Central Social Welfare Board is an attempt to touch the lives of every hamlet and village and afford to them new life and zest. We admit that our man-power is enormous, but it has to be a contented one, enjoying life, not struggling through it. Who can guage the extent of the future strength? Time will tell.

As far as urban problems are concerned, the lower middle classes and the middle classes seem to be labouring under their own special difficulties. A scheme has been projected as an experiment with a view to help women who are unable to leave their homes for any length of time either in order to continue their studies which was given up at one stage or other in their life, or who desire to augment the family income by learning some form of cottage industry and earning some money from the the skill so acquired. To answer this need

Compliments of Mr and Mrs N. C. S. Kumar.

'The Family Welfare Scheme', has been started in a few places at New Delhi as an experiment under the auspices of the Union Commerce and Industries Ministry; a women's advisory panel is doing all the spade work. Five hundred families have been selected for this scheme. A Co-operative Society is formed and the Basis of Membership will be to participate in simple cottage industries such as helping to pack and label Match boxes for the Match Factory set up for this scheme, and take up weaving of Khadi etc. The success of this scheme seems already in view judging by the flood of applicants. If and when it is seen to be satisfactory the scheme will be extended to other places.

Apart from these Social and Economic Schemes, an effort is being made also towards Social Legislation. A Special Officer is in charge of this branch of the welfare programme. After a full survey of Laws and Bills now existing and a noting of their working to eradicate social evils and protect the rights of children and women and society as a whole, fresh proposals for new legislation will be made.

An effort at integration and co-ordination of work and policy is also being made by the editing of 'the Social Welfare Journal,' plans for which are under way.

Thus the concept of a welfare state is being worked out with faith and courage using whatever resources are now available and mobilising and directing patriotic zeal and youthful enthusiasm of the people. With the right amount of public co-operation these schemes are sure to give the maximum results towards the achievement of a healthy, happy, society that is 'India recreated'.

ELIZABETH SUGIRTHAM AZARIAH,
Student, W.C.C., 1919-1923.
Private Secretary to
Shrimati Durgabai Deshmukh.
Chairman, Central Social Welfare Board
(*Government of India*)
New Delhi

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Best wishes of a Friend.

SMOKELESS COOKING

By S. P. RAJU

In a University College for Women, where the flower of Indian Christian womanhood is being trained to take its place of leadership in the creation of a new social order, it is of fundamental importance that there should be a correct Christian perspective on the so-called 'secular' things of life in relation to the so-called 'sacred' things of life. To make the problem realistic I pose a question: What is the relationship between the Chapel Service, Home Science, and Kitchen Service? The chapel service you probably attend with a perfectly natural spiritual feeling. Home Science you study with zest, because the degree will bring you a job and economic freedom. Kitchen Service? You have hardly heard of the efforts made to make your hostel kitchens smokeless and comfortable for the cooks!

Are these three separate water-tight compartments of college life? Or is there an underlying basis that integrates them into one whole? Is the chapel talk on 'Love thy neighbour as thyself' meant only to warm your spirit, or does it reach the stuffy kitchen where your 'neighbours' sweat and drudge to prepare your food? Or does the chapel talk follow you into the Home Science Lab., and urge you to think of simple experiments for lessening the daily drudgery of millions of your countrywomen in running their homes?

If the chapel talk does not follow you into the kitchens and the Lab., there is something wrong.

For judging the health and living standards of a people there is hardly a better index than the standard of their kitchens.

Indian kitchens are suffocating chambers of pungent smoke violently irritating to the eyes, nose and lungs, and also to the temper of the housewife! Open smoky chulas needing frequent blowing, the direct fatiguing heat of the blazing fire, black walls with dirty soot, all these create an environment which is unhygienic, unaesthetic and depressing. Kitchen smoke is responsible for causing or aggrevating many diseases and for lowering general vitality.

In the 75 million families in India, over 100 million women spend a quarter of their lives in such gloomy and miserable kitchens, exposed to discomfort, disease and slow death. And yet, on the health and cheerfulness of these women depend the physical fitness, mental vigour and spiritual poise of the nation. In the backward areas of the world, there must be about 300 million of such suffering women.

The Indian chula is not only primitive but wasteful in fuel. Experiments have shown that the Indian chula has a thermal efficiency of about 8%. That is: out of every 100 units of heat contained in the wood, only 8 units are used for cooking and the remaining 92 go away in smoke, heating the kitchen air and heating the housewife! Housewives using the new chula have reported a saving of fuel ranging from 20 to 40%. Taking 30% as average, the saving of firewood for India would amount to about Rs. 15 crores per annum and a reduction of deforestation by about 15 million trees a year.

For all the under-developed areas of the world the saving may amount to about 45 million trees a year. The United Nations ECAFE (Economic Commission for Asia and the Far East) is therefore deeply interested in spreading fuel-saving cooking devices that can be used by even poor women.

The new chula offers a practical solution to one of the world's biggest problems connected simultaneously with housing, health and fuel economy. About half the population of the globe living in under-developed areas is using cooking devices which are primitive, unhygienic and wasteful. On account of poverty and low economic development it is futile to think of gas, electricity or even iron ranges for a long time to come. With mud and mud products as basic building materials, a cooking stove (chula) has been evolved, which keeps the kitchen free from smoke, affords environment and saves on fuel. The new chulas are adaptable for families of different sizes, habits and incomes, and also for hostels. They are described in detail with diagrams and photographs in the book: SMOKELESS KITCHENS FOR THE MILLIONS.*

* '*Smokeless Kitchens for the Millions*' *by Dr. S. P. Raju, Christian Literature Society, Madras. Price—Re.* 1.

As this meets a basic human need in the under-developed areas of the world, it is extensively popularised by persons and institutions interested in human welfare.

Dr. Margaret Hockin, Chief of the Home Economics Section of the Food and Agricultural Organisation of the United Nations, has been interested in the chula for many years. At a recent press conference in the United Nations, she said: '*The clay stove designed by Dr. Raju is winning wide acceptance in the other parts of the world through the F.A.O....It is possible to make it in an hour with clay and any available material for the stove pipe to carry off the smoke. It is far more hygienic than the traditional open fires. Mexico...is using it widely...At a recent training school in the Caribbean region all trainees had to make Dr. Raju's stove.*'

The Women's Education Department in Nigeria is spreading the technique of making it by means of wooden moulds through Regional Centres of Women Teachers Association. The Social Welfare Department in Jamaica is popularising it through Home Improvement Workshop Camps. The Domestic Economy Department of the Puerto Rico University propagates it through a training school for women from different States.

And so the good news of salvation from Smoke is spreading round the world.

A missionary couple in India are putting forth their utmost efforts to eradicate this evil of smoke through practical demonstrations with working models, puppet shows in jathras, with electric wire recorded dialogues, posters, leaflets in Telugu abridged from the book on Smokeles Kitchens, for a convention of 20,000 people, and so on. A Warden of a Christian Girls' Hostel reports saving of Rs 600/- a year over the new chulas.

What about the Women's Christian College? With an inspiring chapel, an advanced Home Science Department and Kitchens needing improvements, it has a splendid opportunity of giving a lead to similar Women's Colleges, by starting the work and extending it to other parts of Madras through its social service programme, and to other parts of India through its alumnæ, who are

LIGHTED TO LIGHTEN.

* *Dr. Raju is the husband of Kanthamma Devadason,* B.A. 1920.

Greetings to all our friends of the years 1920, '22, '29, '40, '42, '45, '50, '52 *from some old students in Tambaram.*

Miss Vida David '20, Mrs. Anna Koshy,
Mrs. Jemima Arulanantham (Lamech '22)
Mrs. Laura David (Lawrence '29)
Mrs. Bali Sargunadoss (Santiago '40)
Mrs. Leela Gnanadoss (Edward '40)
Mrs. Eona Macnicol (Fraser '42)
Mrs. Mary Thomas '45
Mrs. Marjorie Job (Paul '50) and
Mrs. Patsy Charles (Aaron '52)

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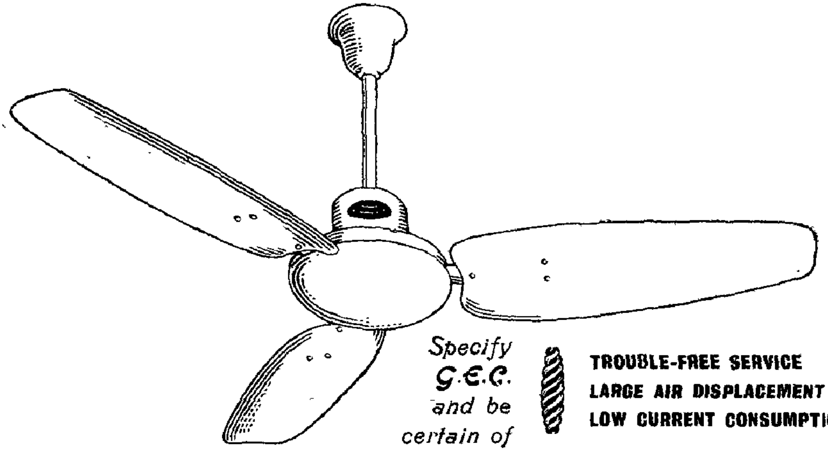

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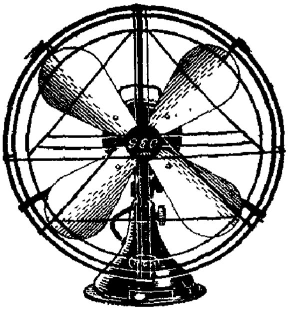

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DEACONESS WORK IN THE LUTHERAN CHURCH

'Not unto us, O Lord, not unto us, but unto Thy name give glory.'

Inasmuch as ye have done it unto one of the least of my brethren ye have done it unto Me, saith the Lord Jesus Christ.

Bethesda is a Home for invalid women, situated in Tanjore. As you walk in Bethesda you will find the cripple, the deaf and dumb, the blind and the defective, some bedridden, others sitting and yet others moving about. The water is stirred three times a day regularly, and on special occasions when the members meet at the feet of Jesus, our Saviour for spiritual and material gifts. Just before Lunch we meet for thanksgivings and intercession. The cure of the body is not aimed at, but relief is given to the body. The inmates are kept cheerful—a homely atmosphere prevailing.

Bethesda was started in 1939 in a small house with two inmates a deaf and dumb girl and a lame girl, with two voluntary workers. Soon a third worker joined. In one year the number increased and we were in need of a larger house which demanded a greater faith in Christ. It was then the beginning of the World War with all its uncertainties. Was it wise to go in for a large house with a heavy rent, counting on large donations?

'No'—replies the man after flesh.

'Nothing is impossible unto God. His storehouse is never dried up,'—replies the man after Spirit.

Bethesda means the House of Mercy. Blessed are the merciful, for they shall obtain mercy. We receive mercy and show mercy to all.

God supplies our manifold needs. 'Behold the fowls of the air. Behold the lilies of the field' He feeds and clothes the poor, unfortunate, neglected, defective community of our nation. It is marvellous to experience the direct care of our Heavenly Father. How well He knows our needs and cares for us if only we rely on Him entirely.

'I have been impelled to give my mite.' 'It is good to give a cup of cold water,' 'I have got my first pay. Here is my tithe.' 'We had a good harvest. One bag of paddy to the Homes! It is the Death Anniversary of my father.' 'Here is my Lent Offering.' 'I have put aside a little for the poor.' 'Use this for a feast on Easter Day.'

There are several similar opportunities of giving for those who listen to the voice of God urging them to give to Bethesda.

The opportunities for service also are innumerable. 'Here is a lonely Christian, a cripple, uncared for.' 'Kannammal does not fit in with the normal orphans.' 'My only girl has been lying in bed for 19 years. She needs Christian fellowship.' 'Here is a widow, young and wandering in the streets, being out of her wits. If she can be under protection—.' 'I would like to provide a Home for my invalid girl before my death.'

Normal orphan girls find a Home in Bethesda, and their help among invalid women is of immense value.

The inmates of Bethesda are engaged in useful occupations such as straw mat weaving, coir making, and also bags, fans and baskets and embroidery and sewing. Defective as the inmates are, they produce good work and there is a demand for the mats made in Bethesda.

To-day there are 50 inmates in Bethesda, but there are always many outside who receive help. The hungry go away fed, and the naked clothed.

The aim is to give the unfortunate lot a happy Christian Home. The Word of God is the Food sustaining us in His Faith and Prayer is the Breath of Life.

In 1943 God sent to us the first orphan child, 4 years old to care for. This was the beginning of the orphanage, Bethlehem, founded in Pattukottai in 1944. To-day there are 60 children and 10 young girls to care for them and 2 Deaconesses and 2 voluntary workers. I need not dwell on the necessity of orphanages in our country. If all the wandering children should be taken in and cared for, which I long to do, there would be hundreds of children.

Some of the babies have entered the heavenly joy, causes being many for their early death. God visiting the sins of parents upon the children. Those who survive go to schools, attend Church services regularly, and join in all children's activities of the Church. They are taught to love the Word of God and pray. Jesus Christ is real to them.

The children teach us the truth of entire reliance on God. Bethlehem is situated with a large cocoanut tope in front. Children grow like palm trees to yield fruit in season.

The work in these Homes in addition to evangelistic work is carried on by Deaconesses and voluntary workers. A Deaconess is a Handmaiden of the Lord Jesus Christ, privileged to serve Him among the poor and the needy.

Jesus says, 'I am among you as He that serveth.'

LYDIA VEDANAYAKAM,
Bethesda, Tanjore.

Greetings and Good Wishes for your new venture from the English Associate Board.

PRIZE LIST—1953–'54

The Margaret Bretherton English Prize	... Sara Joseph (*I*)
The Alexander Miller Junior Scripture Prize	... *Shared by:* Vimala Rajagopal (*III*), Anjala Manasseh (*II*), Rebecca Kuruvilla (*II*)
The Edith Coon Memorial Science Prize	... R. Rukmani (*III*)
The Miller Medal	... G. Saroja (*IV*)
The Lord Pentland Prize ...	... Laura Sundaresan (*II*)
The Mary Chandy Jacob Home Science Prize	... Susan John (*IV*)
The Jessie Thomson History Prize ...	... Anna Jacob (*II*)
The Florence Risley English Prize ...	... *Shared by:* Laura Sundaresan (*II*), Anna Jacob (*II*)

UNIVERSITY PRIZES

The Miller Gold Medal for B.A. Philosophy—Gracey Philip.

The Sir C. V. Kumaraswami Sastri Gold Medal for the best candidate in B.A. History, together with the Todhunter Prize for the best woman candidate in History—Elsie V. Titus.

B.C.G. VACCINATION

By Dr. (Mrs.) V. M. PHILIP

Tuberculosis is a vast problem in India. As one of the few tuberculosis workers in the city, I shall try to tell you something about Tuberculosis and some of the methods of its prevention.

Tuberculosis is prevalent all over the world. It is an infectious disease like plague, cholera or typhoid. The incidence is increasing in our country not only due to better methods of diagnosis at present but also due to the poor socio-economic and public health conditions of the people. The mortality rate from this disease is 200 to 300 per 100,000 of the population. About five lakhs of people die from Tuberculosis every year in India and five times this number suffer from this disease. A large majority of deaths are in the age period of 15 to 35, that is at a time when the human material is very valuable to society and state.

The disease is carried by Tubercle Bacilli which are visible only microscopically. It attacks not only the lungs but also the brain and its covering, bones, joints, abdomen etc.

Tuberculosis in the early stages is difficult to diagnose but easy to cure, while it is easy to detect it in the late stages, but difficult to cure.

One of the methods of detecting early cases is by Mass X-ray which you had in the college last July. We have done about 50,000 people of different categories in Madras City. We found about 1.2% of the so-called healthy people suffering from Tuberculosis. This works out to an incidence rate of 1,200 per lakh of the population. Madras City with a population of nearly 15 lakhs has about 18,000 people suffering from tuberculosis.

The methods of organisation of any anti-tuberculosis campaign on sound lines are now well established. Tuberculosis being a communicable disease, the first step lies in the discovery of the patient in the early stage. Isolation of the infectious patient is an obvious necessity to prevent the spread of the disease. According to Dr. Fishberg, a great American Tuberculosis specialist, if the Tubercle Bacilli that a patient coughs out in a day is arranged in single file it will occupy a distance of twelve miles. This shows the need for isolating an infectious case and the proper disposal of the sputum and other discharges containing the Tubercle Bacilli.

According to accepted standards, India should have about 4,000 Tuberculosis Clinics and 500,000 beds whereas there are only about 120 clinics and 13,000 beds available all over India. Madras City has only six Tuberculosis Clinics instead of the 30 clinics required. In terms of money 450 crores of rupees are required to establish these institutions and 60 crores are needed for the annual recurring expenditure. Raising the socio-economic level of the people and improvement of general public health requires nearly double this amount. Considering these difficulties the Planning Commission accepted that for the next five years emphasis should be laid on preventive measures. The old adage that 'Prevention is better than cure' is particularly true when we consider the problem of Tuberculosis in India at present.

Better standards of life, as exemplified in housing, education, nutrition and a higher standard of public health will go a long way in controlling the disease, in that, they improve the general resistance against all ailments. But the infectious nature of the disease should not be forgotten and among the preventive measures, the method to raise the specific resistance of the body against the disease, namely by vaccination, has been given top priority by the Health Panel of the Planning Commission.

Preventive inoculation against diseases like small-pox, typhoid, cholera and yellow fever are well known to us. B. C. G. Vaccine is one such preventive vaccine against tuberculosis. This vaccine was discovered by two French physicians, Profs. Calmette and Guerin and so it is called after their names as Bacillus Calmette Guerin (B.C.G.) Vaccination. This method of vaccination has been in use for the last thirty years in the Scandinavian countries and it has been in vogue in other countries like Canada, U.S.A., South America, Russia and more recently in other European countries, in Japan, India, Pakistan, Burma, Ceylon and Malaya.

Unlike the vaccination against other infectious diseases like small-pox, cholera, typhoid etc. which are given straight away to the public, B.C.G. vaccine need not be given to all people. Tuberculosis is not an inherited disease, but after birth, living as we are in the midst of so many persons who are suffering from the disease, we get the infection. In a city like Madras, more than 90 per cent are infected by the time they reach the age of 20 years. Such a natural infection goes unnoticed in a majority of cases and when the infection is overcome, a certain degree of resistance is developed in the body.

This resistance in the body of any individual can be found out by a simple test called the Tuberculin Test. A small injection is given in the fore-arm and the result of this test is read after three days. There is absolutely no harm in this injection and can be given to all people and of all ages. There will not be any reaction after the injection, as pain, fever, headache and the like and you can forget that you had this Tuberculin Test and can go about your usual work.

When the result of this test is read after three days, we call those who have already had an infection as Tuberculin 'Positive'. This means that these people have already come in contact with the tuberculosis infection at some time or other in their life. We have seen that those who have said that there was no case of tuberculosis in their families for generations, show astonishment when they are Tuberculin 'Positive'. Such of those who have never come in contact with the tuberculosis infection are called Tuberculin 'Negative', and these are the people who need protection against tuberculosis by B.C.G. vaccination. You can ask me if this natural infection produces resistance and makes one Tuberculin 'Positive' why cannot we allow the Tuberculin 'Negative' persons to acquire the natural infection. The danger is that we cannot trust this natural infection over which we have no control. A good number of those who get the infection will get the disease sooner or later, whereas the danger of the disease coming from the first infection can never occur after the B.C.G. Vaccination.

The injection is given in the skin of the left shoulder. There is no reaction like pain, fever, headache, etc., after the vaccination. Six to eight weeks after the vaccination the person who has been vaccinated will get the specific resistance without any fear of getting the disease which would not be possible, were he to leave himself to get infected, by natural sources.

So, before a person wants B.C.G., he must get a Tuberculin Test done on him. If he proves to be positive he does not need B.C.G., but if he proves to be negative, he requires B.C.G. Vaccination. And this B.C.G. Vaccination gives a good deal of resistance to the individual.

There are 170 million people below the age of 20 in India. To get the best result, these people should be Tuberculin tested and B.C.G. vaccinated within five to seven years. So far we have Tuberculin tested about 65 million people and B.C.G. vaccinated 21-8 million people. The rest is yet to be done.

Dr. Philip, née Sosa Oommen (1918-'20), *is the Director of the T. B. Hospital, Chetput, Madras.*

With the Best Wishes of Mrs. Diraviam and her daughters Vijaya and Arul.

THE ALUMNAE SECRETARY'S REPORT

In April (1st week) I was able to meet old students in Madura and Tanjore and attended an informal meeting of the Trichy Club. It was inspiring to see the valuable work done by sister Lydia Vedanayagam, in Tanjore.

Convocation Day (August 22nd, 1953) was a happy and memorable occasion. Besides welcoming the graduates of the year, we saw the re-union of the Five Year classes,—1917 and 1918, being the oldest re-union class. The function began with tea (staff at home to old students) and registration of old students, followed by a procession of the Alumnae, class by class, beginning with the oldest re-union class. We proceeded to the Assembly Hall to take part in the Chain of Unity Service, and the business session of the Alumnae Association.

After the business session, we assembled in the Chapel for a service of Thanksgiving led by Miss Moses. There was a special dinner for which all the old students except the graduates of the year and the oldest re-union class contributed Re. 1 per head. After dinner the graduates of the year were introduced by Dr. Mason, and the present students entertained the Alumnae with their dramatic talents.

Many of our old students individually, and collectively as Alumnae clubs sent their greetings, which signified the fact that the Alumnae all over India joined together in making a common act of commemoration and thanksgiving. Miss McDougall, Miss Rivett, and Miss George, the three former principals of the college, Miss Stevens, a former member of the staff and a dear friend of the Alumnae sent their messages of good wishes and blessings. Roughly 200 old students attended the function and about 150 were present at the business session.

The Madras Club members and the officers of the College Union helped the secretary a great deal in making arrangements for the great day. Several groups of students and Miss Corfield worked very hard for a fortnight in sending out nearly 1750 invitations. Our work will be made easier if old students can keep us informed of their correct addresses from time to time. Our card catalogue of addresses and news of old students is far from complete and we need the co-operation and assistance of old students in collecting addresses and news of our Alumnae so as to go ahead with that valuable work begun by Mrs. Baumgarten, Miss Jeevanandam, and Miss Corfield.

I was very fortunate to be able to visit old students in Bombay and Hyderabad during the September vacation. The Bombay Club members invited me to an informal evening meeting and also came to see our present students at the hotel where we were staying for a couple of days. The Hyderabad Club invited us to a tea function at the Wesley Girls' High School which turned out to be a very happy and inspiring occasion for both the present and old students gathered there. The Madras Club has had a series of interesting meetings this year.

Miss Mason met the Kottayam and Alwaye Clubs in March and brought us news of the wonderful work carried on by old students in Educational and Medical fields.

The staff gave a party to Class IV before they dispersed for their revision holidays. It was followed by a short and solemn function, wherein, the outgoing students were enrolled as members of the Alumnae Association and were assigned to different clubs according to where they live.

Compliments of an Old Student of the class of 1920.

The appointment of a part-time Secretarial Assistant to help the Secretary in her office-work was considered by the Alumnae Executive and the College Council agreed to subsidise the salary on a decreasing scale for a definite period. It is the responsibility of the Alumnae Association to make this a permanent post by raising enough money by subscription and donations. It should be possible for the part-time Secretarial Assistant to help in the correspondence work by which continued contacts can be established with old students. As a result the number of subscribing members would eventually increase, whereas now a very small proportion pay their annual subscription. No established association can function vigorously without a regular income to meet its recurring expenses and it is the primary responsibility of its members to see that its income level is maintained.

We are planning for the 2nd re-union of the next set of 5 year classes and look forward to meeting many of you on the Alumnae day.

The Colombo Club organised a re-union of old students in Ceylon to meet Miss Dodd, Miss Samuel (our President), and Miss Oommen. Miss Samuel was invited to the Guides Rally arranged during the Queen's visit. Miss Dodd and Miss Oommen sailed for England from Colombo. Miss Oommen, whom many of us know as our Alumnae secretary for many years is proceeding to Toronto for higher studies.

I hope to meet old students in Delhi next month on my way back from Dehra Dhun. Here in Tambaram, I have been meeting old students who live here and are ever eager to get recent news of the College.

Let us march forward with renewed vigour and deeper loyalty to our Alma Mater.

MISS ELIZABETH THEOPHILUS,
May 29th 1954
A. A. Secretary.

With the best compliments of

The Quilon Club of The Women's Christian College

NEWS OF REUNION CLASSES

1948

M. K. Chelliah (B.A.) is teaching at Good Shepherd Convent, Kandy, Ceylon.

Vijaya Rajaratnam (B.A.) née Daniel was at 191, 3rd Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Madras, and is now in Malaya.

Sarojini Dorairaj (Inter) was in her fifth year as a medical student at Christian Medical College, Vellore, and is now doing her House Surgeoncy in Mysore Mission Hospital.

Anna Jacob (Inter) is Nursing Superintendent at Christian Medical College Hospital, Vellore.

Helen Jacob is a Lecturer at Lady Doak College, Madurai.

Saramma Chakko (B.A.) née Jacob has a nine-month old baby son, Yakob, and finds 'mothercraft' her first joy, with painting, needlework, and music, good hobbies. Her address is: 55 Grant Road, Bangalore 1. Her husband is currently in France on the new Aircraft India is purchasing from France. She suggests each re-union class have a chairman to keep in touch with her class and the Alma Mater regularly during the year preceding the re-union of the class. Good idea!

Helen James (B.A.) lives at Padma Bhavan, Neyyoor, USTC. She thinks it would be a good thing if we had Honours classes at W.C.C. and says 'It's a great thing we are having a Science group for the B.Sc. It would be a boon to future students if they could do Honours classes in a Women's College.' She is now on the staff of Visalakshi College, Udumalpet.

S. Muthucomaroe (Inter) says her present occupation is 'Students'. She is at Sanghamitta Hall University, Peradeniya, Ceylon.

Sarla Gurushanta (Inter) lives at 9/4 Mission Road, Bangalore 2, and lectures in Chemistry at Maharani's College there. She continues to be an active member of the local S.C.M. and is also in the W.C.C. Club of Bangalore.

C. P. Radha (Inter) is a Medical student and has Social work as her other interest. She lives at 'Romola', 44 Spur Tank Road, Egmore, Madras.

Kokila Rajaiah née Gnanamuthu (B.A.) is living at 29 Peter's Road, Royapettah, Madras, with her husband who is a Sales Engineer in Caltex Company and her two children. She finds time for several other things: car driving, Singer sewing school, USIS Library and writing articles for magazines!

Rajeswari Sumanam née Baghyanathan (Inter) has two children, a boy and girl, and says her present occupation is 'twiddling my thumbs', but we doubt it. She lives at S.I.R. Ice Factory, Egmore, Madras.

Eva Sunderaraj née Doss (B.Sc.) is now on the staff of the Nutrition Department, W. C. C. in spite of having a little daughter 2 years and 8 months old. She comes in to Madras every day from Chingleput.

1943

Rupamathi Azariah née Thangaswamy (Inter) has a girl and boy and did her teacher's training at St. Christopher's last year.

Mariam Kurian née Cherian (B. A.) is at 8/2 Landsdowne Road, Calcutta 20, where she is busy keeping house for her husband, two sons and a daughter.

Kausalya Govindarajan (B.A.) is now in England and due back in September or October.

Aley Philips née Cherian (B.A.) is a lecturer in History and receives her mail c/o T. Philips, Engineering Supervisor, Telegraphs, Secunderabad. She proposes her Class raise a fund for a Book Prize to be awarded to the 'best' student from Inter. or B.A. That's Class Spirit for you!

E. Juliana Rajanayakam née Ratnaia (B.A.) has a six-year old daughter, Uma, and is now teaching. She lives at 2 Celia Hostel, Y.M.C.A. Compound, Royapettah, Madras.

Jemima Samuel née Samuel (B.A.) has a far-away address: c/o Rev. G. T. Samuel, B.D., Kelantan Indian Association, Kota Bharu, Kelantan, Malaya.

Navaneetham Samuel (B.A.) is Headmistress of the Diamond Jubilee Girls' High School, Gobichettipalayam, and is fully occupied with her teaching.

Leela Satyanathan née Daniel (B.A.) was living at 191, 3rd Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Madras, when we wrote to her, but she expected to be joining her husband in Delhi, where he is a Wing Commander in the I.A.F.

Dolly Simon (Inter) is a librarian at U.S.I.L. 150 B. Mount Road, Madras 2, and lives at 7 Bishop's Lane, Madras 7.

Stella Solomon (B.A.) is at O.C.P.M. High School, Tallukulam P.O., Madurai.

1933

Radhabai Arumainayagam has not been well in recent years. She would enjoy hearing from old college friends. Her address: Servaikaramedam, via Tuticorin.

Aley Joseph nèe Casimin is Headmistress of St. Thomas English High School for Girls, Puthenangady, Kottayam, USTC.

Achamma Mathen is at Christava Mahilalayam, Alwaye, USTC.

Louisa Roberts née David lives at 29 Ritherdon Road, Madras 7, and she teaches in the Preparatory School, Kilpauk, Madras. She is kept busy the rest of the time by a son and two daughters.

Annamma Thomas née Tharappan is busy with household duties and three children. She can be reached c/o Rev. T. C. Thomas, M.T.S., Kottayam, USTC.

Dr. S. Verghese née Chandy (Inter) lives at 62, III Main Road, Gandhinagar, Adyar, Madras. and is Hon. Asst. Medical Officer at K. G. Hospital, Madras. She has a six-year old daughter.

Padma Williams has one boy and three girls, and we can believe she is fully occupied as a 'housewife'. Her address is c/o P. A. Williams, Esq., M.A., c/o A. & F. ? O., Tuticorin.

Sara T. Zachariah is Teaching at St. Columba School, Bombay 7.

Christina Chandran nèe Kallat is teaching at B.E.M. Girls' High School, Calicut, and is the proud mother of three grown-up children, Rukma, Vimala, and Prabha. Rukma and Vimala are old students of W.C.C. and Prabha attends Senior Inter classes in Malabar Christian College, Calicut.

1923

Elizabeth Sugirtham Azariah née Swamidoss who is now at 34/23 Atkinson Road, Vepery, Madras——when she's in town——is very busy with her work as Secretary to Mrs. Dashmukh. She is an advocate and has six sons!

1919

Mary Gnanamuthu née Robert, lives at Jasmine Villa, 11 Bishop Waller Avenue, East, Mylapore, Madras 4, and is one of our faithful Madras W.C.C. Club members. She has three sons and two daughters to gladden her days. Her daughters are married and two of her sons are studying, while one is with the Reserve Bank, Madras. She reminds us that she took the University Diploma Course in Indian Music (violin) after leaving College.

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(Behind the Salvation Army Headquarters)

FOR ALL YOUR

PRINTING

ALUMNAE NEWS

WEDDINGS

1. Mariam Mathan (B.Sc. 1951) to Mr. Abraham on Nov. 30, 1953.
2. Esther John (B.Sc. 1944) to Mr. P. S. Mathew on Nov. 28, 1953.
3. Kamala Savarirayan, (B.A. 1952) to Dr. Gnanamurthy on Dec. 30, 1953.
4. Mary Eipe (B.Sc. 1952) to Mr. Kurien Verghese on Jan. 14, 1953.
5. Jayalakshmi Ramanatha Aiyar to Lt. R. Prabhakar on Jan. 31, 1954.
6. Lois Masilamani (Inter. 1947) to George Philip on Jan. 28, 1954.
7. Elizabeth Mammen (B.A. 1951) to Mr. Mathew Abraham on Jan. 24, 1954.
8. Rebecca Varkey to Rev. Oommen on Dec. 28, 1953.
9. Krishnabai Monsingh (B.Sc. 1950) to Mr. Reginald Charles on Dec. 21, 1953.
10. K. P. Rema (B.A. 1953) to Capt. E. A. Thyagarajan on Jan. 15, 1954.
11. Rani Samuel (staff 1952-1953) to Dr. Jayasekharan Daniel on Dec. 30, 1953.
12. Vatsala Pai (B.A. 1945) to Mr. Manjunath Nayak on March 25, 1954.
13. Irene Ross (B.A. 1951) to Mr. C. John on Jan. 27, 1954.
14. Malini Raj (staff 1952-1954) to Mr. Jagadish on July 1954.
15. Elsie Varkey (B.Sc. 1951) to Mr. Verghese.
16. Padma Thomas (B.A. 1952) to Mr. Devar on July 1953.
17. Manorama Savoor (B.A. 1952) to Mr. Ratnakar Karnad on April 16, 1954.
18. Lalitha Ponniah (now on staff) to Bazaleel Gnanadoss on June 7, 1954
19. Shanti Masilamoni (B.A. 1954) to Selvaraj Jesudasan on June 2, 1954.
20. Vimala Williams (B.A. 1940) to Mr. Robert Paulus on June 9, 1954.
21. Anna P. Oommen (B.Sc. 1948) to Mr. Mathew Alexander on June 14, 1954.
22. Anna Mathew (B.A. 1949) to Mr. Johny Kor-Episcopa on June 3, 1954.
23. Gladys Bonnell (B.A. 1950) to Richmond Doraswami on June 16, 1954.
24. Eswaridevi Arumugam (B.A. 1948) to Arumugam Vethanayagam on April 19, 1954.
25. Chandramathi Swaminathan (B.A. 1951) to Mr. Edwin Dharmaraj.
26. Shyamala Devi Moses (B.A. 1952) to Mr. P. Prabhakar Rao on June 2, 1954.
27. K. P. Radhamani (B.A. 1952) to Mr. K. Chandrasekharan on April 25, 1954.
28. Anna Mathew (B.A. 1952) to Mr. Jacob John on April 29, 1954.
29. Mariamma John (B.Sc. 1952) to Jacob Cherian on April 25, 1954.
30. Ammukutty Abraham (B.A. 1953) to Mr. P. J. John on June 14, 1954.
31. Anna Joseph (B.A. 1953) to Mr. Eapen Abraham on April 29, 1954.
32. Elsie Titus (B.A. 1954) to Kurien Eipe on May 27, 1954.
33. Grace Mathews (B.A. 1954) to Mr. Joy Easow on June 10, 1954.
34. K. S. Jayalakshmy (B.A. 1954) to Mr M. V. Rajan on July 9, 1954.
35. Stella Sophie Jeevanandam (Ex-B.A. 1948) to Mr. Benjamin Arputharaj on May 12, 1954.
36. Florence Samuel (Inter. 1951) to Mr. James Theodore on May 24, 1954.
37. Dr. Ratnavathy Arthur (Inter. 1943) to Dr. Solomon on September 1953.
38. Nalini Rai (Inter. 1954) to Dr. Vasanth Kumar Shetty on January, 1954.
39. Padma Nair (B. Sc., 1953) to Mr. Menon on April 1953.

BIRTHS

1. Susy Thomas née Eapen — a daughter.
2. Ranjitham Diamond née Baukiam — a son.

LUBNA
DAUGHTER OF ZULEIKA CASSIM (B.A. 1951)

3. Zulieka Sait née Cassim — a daughter.
4. Lalitha Shenoy née Kudva — a daughter.
5. Janavi Shenoy née Mallaya — a son.
6. Meera Shenoy née Pai — a daughter.
7. Meera Pai née Mallaya — a son.
8. Prema Singh née Pai — a daughter.
9. Tara Sujir née Prabhu — a daughter.
10. Meera Shirali née Baindur — a son.
11. Prema Rao née Mundkur — a daughter.
12. Rebecca Kurien née Jacob — a son.
13. Mrs. Lionel (Staff) — a son.
14. Yashoda Srinivasa Rao née Venkata Rao — a son.
15. Leela Deraviam née Packianathan — a daughter.
16. Sridevi Narayana Reddy née C. Sridevi — a son born on September 14, 1950.
17. Kamala Vedanayagam née Ramaswamy — a son ? a daughter ?
18. Padma Joseph née Solomon — a son ? a daughter ?
19. Achamma Philip née Chacko — a daughter.
20. Achamma Oommen née Cheriyan— a daughter.

WE REGRET TO ANNOUNCE THE DEATHS OF :—

Mrs. Vedamuthu (1917).

Miss Padma Samuel (B.A. 1940)

Miss Annie Titus (Inter. 1952).

Miss Sara Joseph (B.Sc. 1954).

Rebecca Iype, sister of Dr. Achy Iype ('18) died at Kottayam on 26th July.

DEGREES AWARDED FOR HIGHER STUDIES

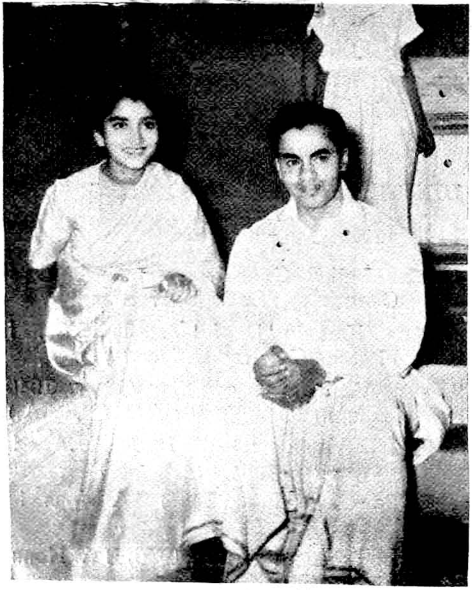
1. Mrs. Lalitha Gnanadoss (staff) Ph.D. in Chemistry (Delhi University).
2. Miss Kamala Daniel (staff) M.Sc. in Physics (Madras University).
3. Miss Victoria Theophilus (Inter. 1946) M.Sc. in Physiology (Vassar, U.S.A.).
4. B. H. Vatsala (B.A. 1951) M.A. in Politics (Nagpur University).
5. P. Vinodhini (Inter. 1951) B.A. Hons. in Mathematics (now on staff).
6. Mavis Augustus (Inter. 1950) B.A. Hons. in History.
7. Mary Mathai (Inter. 1951) B.A. Hons. in Psychology.
8. Mary Oommen (Inter. 1951) B.A. Hons. in Psychology.
9. V. C. Vimla (Inter. 1951) B.A. Hons. in Psychology.
10. Jayalakshmi (Inter. 1951) B.A. Hons. in Psychology.
11. Annie Cherian (Inter. 1950) B.A. Hons. in English Literature.

AWARD OF SCHOLARSHIPS FOR HIGHER STUDIES ABROAD

1. Navamoni Whitin—Wellesley College, U.S.A. Postgraduate course in Zoology.
2. Mrs. Mary Thomas — Chicago. Religious Education.
3. Miss Anna Oommen — Toronto. Physical Education.
4. Loolu Kurien — London.
5. Nalini Devanandam — Yale University, Theology.

CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 DEC 1955

WEDDING BELLES



ANNA JOSEPH (B.A. 1953)

NALINI RAI (INTER 1954)

SHANTI MASILAMONI (B.A. 1954)

Greetings from

The

Colombo Club

THE TREASURER'S REPORT

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS: APRIL 1st 1952—MARCH 31st 1953

Alumnae Life Membership Account

RECEIPTS

	RS.	A.	P.
By Balance on 31-3-'52 ...	756	2	6
,, Membership Fees ...	505	0	0
,, Additional contributions ...	76	6	0
,, Loan repaid by A. A. Current Account ...	798	0	0
,, Interest	22	10	0
	2,158	2	6

PAYMENTS

	RS.	A.	P.
Transferred to A. A. Current Account ...	381	6	0
Balance with P.O. Saving bank on 31-3-'53 ...	1,776	12	6
	2,158	2	6

A. A. Current Account

	RS.	A.	P.
By balance on 31-3-'52 ...	964	12	3
,, Annual Membership Fees ...	450	0	0
,, Donations ...	101	8	0
,, Advertisement in *Sunflower*.	180	0	0
,, Sale of *Sunflower* to College.	170	0	0
,, Interest ...	67	0	0
Transferred from L.M. Acct. ...	381	6	0
Transferred from College Maintenance and Endowment Account ...	1,800	3	0
Madras Club money ...	300	0	0
	4,414	13	3

	RS.	A.	P.
Loan repaid to L. M. Account ...	798	0	0
Endowment and Maintenance money transferred to College Account ...	1,800	3	0
Madras Club money returned ...	300	0	0
Postage and Stationery—A. A. Secretary ...	172	3	3
Postage & Stationery—A. A. Treasurer ...	13	14	9
Stencil papers ...	24	2	0
Record cards ...	35	3	9
Printing charges—*Sunflower* ...	659	6	3
Postage—*Sunflower* ...	55	5	0
Coon Scholarship ...	90	0	0
Alumnae Dinner ...	218	0	0
Alumnae Day incidental expenses ...	19	4	3
Printing charges—Receipt books	20	0	0
Account books ...	7	10	0
Rivett Prize ...	9	12	0
Towards the gift for Miss Brockway ...	15	0	0
Christmas Gift—Peon ...	1	0	0
Bank charges ...	15	8	0
Cash on hand ...	3	4	0
Balance with Mercantile Bank on 31-3-'53 ...	157	1	0
	4,414	13	3

Coon Scholarship Fund

Receipts		Rs.	A.	P.	Payments		Rs.	A.	P.
To Balance on 31-3-'52	...	900	0	0	National Savings Certificates	...	900	0	0

Rivett Fund

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
Balance on 31-3-'52	...	500	0	0	National Savings Certificates	...	500	0	0

Nursery School Current Account

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
By Balance on 31-3-'52	...	4,022	10	3	School expenses	...	3,347	10	6
,, Interest	...	6	2	0	Play Expenses	...	130	9	6
,, Refunds	...	63	6	0	Transferred to N. S. Endowment Fund	...	1,000	0	0
,, Donation	...	110	0	0	Bank charges	...	7	1	0
,, College Play	...	2,624	1	0	Cash on hand	...	13	15	0
,, Advertisement on Play Programmes	...	75	0	0	Balance with Mercantile Bank on 31-3-'53	...	3,479	7	3
By School Fees	...	127	0	0					
,, Teaching Grant	...	950	8	0					
		7,978	11	3			7,978	11	3

Nursery School Endowment Fund

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
Transferred from N. S. Current Account	...	1,000	0	0	Deposited *in National* Savings Bank	...	1,000	0	0

College Endowment and Maintenance Account

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
By balance on 31-3-'52	...	162	0	0	Paid to Bursar—W. C. C.	...	1,800	3	0
Contributions	...	1,638	3	0					
		1,800	3	0			1,800	3	0

Examined and found correct on 26-7-'53.

(Signed) S. Thomas,
Treasurer.

(Signed) K. Gopalakrishna Rao,
Chartered Accountant and Auditor.

With Best Wishes from Mrs R. Thangaswami, Palamcottah.

SUMMARY OF ACCOUNTS

APRIL 1st 1953—MARCH 31st 1954

Alumnae Life Membership Account

Receipts	Rs.	A.	P.	Payments	Rs.	A.	P.
By balance on 31-3-'53 ...	1,776	12	6	Transferred to A.A. Current Account	50	0	0
„ Membership fees ...	265	0	0	Balance with P.O. Savings Bank on 31-3-'54 ...	2,154	1	6
„ Additional contributions ...	30	0	0				
„ Loan repaid by A. A. Current Account... ...	115	0	0				
„ Interest	17	5	0				
Total ...	2,204	1	6	Total ...	2,204	1	6

A. A. Current Account

	Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
By balance on 31-3-'53 ...	160	5	0	Loans repaid to L.M. Account.	115	0	0
„ Annual membership fees ...	190	0	0	College Endowment money transferred to College Accts. ...	50	0	0
„ Donation	161	8	7	Postage and Stationery—A. A. Secretary ...	212	5	9
„ Advertisement in *Sunflower*.	665	0	0	Postage and Stationery—A. A. Treasurer ...	11	11	6
„ Sale of *Sunflower* to the College	127	8	0	Postage of *Sunflower* ...	77	7	6
„ Interest on Securities ...	67	0	0	Printing charges—*Sunflower* ...	530	14	9
Transferred from L.M. account.	50	0	0	Stencils etc. ...	9	0	0
Towards College Endowment Fund.	50	0	0	Rivett Prize	9	14	6
				Coon Scholarship	90	0	0
				Towards Alumnae dinner ...	20	0	0
				Conveyance	4	14	0
				Christmas gift to peon ...	1	0	0
				Printing charges	58	6	6
				Gift for Mrs. Baumgarten ...	35	0	0
				Bank charges	12	8	0
				Balance with Mercantile Bank on 31-3-'54	233	3	1
Total ...	1,471	5	7	Total ...	1,471	5	7

Anonymous Good Wishes.

Coon Scholarship Fund

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
Balance on 31–3–'53	...	900	0	0	National Savings Certificates	...	900	0	0
Total	...	900	0	0	Total	...	900	0	0

Rivett Fund

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
Balance on 31–3–'53	...	500	0	0	National Savings Certificates	...	500	0	0
Total	...	500	0	0	Total	...	500	0	0

Nursery School Current Account

RECEIPTS		Rs.	A.	P.	PAYMENTS		Rs.	A.	P.
By balance on 31–3–'53	...	3,493	6	3	Play expenses	... ...	235	2	0
,, Gifts	... ...	871	9	3	School expenses	... ...	3,910	2	2
,, College play	... ...	3,046	4	0	Transferred to N.S. Endowment Fund	... ...	1,000	0	0
,, School fees	... ...	103	8	0	Bank charges	... ...	13	0	0
,, Refunds	... ...	52	2	3	Balance with Mercantile Bank on 31–3–'54	... ...	3,534	9	7
,, Teaching grant	...	1,126	0	0					
Total	...	8,692	13	9	Total	...	8,692	13	9

Nursery School Endowment Fund

		Rs.	A.	P.			Rs.	A.	P.
By balance on 31–3–'53	...	1,000	0	0	Balance with National Bank on 31–3–'54	... ...	2,016	4	0
,, Transferred from N. S. Current Account	...	1,000	0	0					
,, Interest	... ...	16	4	0					
Total	...	2,016	4	0	Total	...	2,016	4	0

College Endowment and Maintenance Account

		Rs.	A.	P.		Rs.	A.	P.
Balance on 31–3–'53	...	Nil.			Transferred to College Accounts.	373	0	0
Contributions	... ...	373	0	0				
Total	...	373	0	0	Total ...	373	0	0

S. THOMAS,
(*Treasurer*).

Audited by K. GOPALAKRISHNA RAO,
7–4–'54.

With the Best Compliments of Mrs. Meerabai.

HIGHLIGHTS OF A HOLIDAY IN CEYLON

I flew to Ceylon on April 14th at the invitation of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to help at the Round Table Conference of Trainers. Three such international trainings were held, one in Switzerland, the other in South America and the third one was in Colombo. It was meant chiefly for Guiders from Australia and the Far East, though we had representatives from U.S.A. and Great Britain. The Deputy Director of the World Bureau, Mrs. Wollacott was also there. It was a very good conference, inspiring and stimulating and I enjoyed it very much, being my first contact with the Far East in Guiding. Eleven countries were present and we found we had a great deal in common. We were lucky that our time in Ceylon coincided with the visit of the Queen. We were able to see not only the Queen but also to witness the spontaneous and wonderful welcome that the people of Ceylon gave her. I saw her at the Review of the troops and again when she sailed from Colombo She is too lovely and radiant for words and one can fully understand the deep love and affection she inspires in people.

I had rather a full programme at the Conference and did not see many visitors and one afternoon the office girl came up and said, 'Miss Samuel, two determined-looking women insist on seeing you.' They were the President and Secretary of the Colombo W.C.C. club. I was very happy to see them and we fixed a few dates. After the conference I was able to visit some of the W.C.C. friends. By that time my sister Lily had also joined me for a holiday and between the two of us we knew many of the alumnæ. We spent a whole day with Thaiammal Jacob, one of the early students and a member of staff for a while. Another day there was a dinner party at Lucy's (Chinniah) house and some of the recent graduates were there and I learnt more about the W.C.C. staff and their ways than I knew from my association with them in Madras. The tea-party has been described elsewhere and so I won't say much about it except to say how good the arrangements were, from that marvellous cake in the shape of the College crest to the transport arrangements. We had a grand dinner party at Gertie's house another day. She and her husband are doing an interesting job in getting out good, well-got-up, and properly illustrated books for children. All of it is in Sinhalese and they use motifs from Ceylonese paintings and sculpture. Their house has most interesting objects in it, including a library-cum museum of children's books from all over the world. Belle Raju was away at the time of the teaparty and so she had us to tea with her later. What amazed me was the way these Colombo W.C.C. ladies have trained their husbands to be such good chauffeurs for themselves and their friends. The men bring them to an Alumnæ party, then make themselves scarce and then come back and drive all over town, taking people to their homes. I myself had the honour of being driven by a teacher, a lawyer and a civil servant.

On the way back to India we had a week in Jaffna, a great many of the Alumnæ are here in very responsible jobs. We stayed with Mary Chinniah in Point Pedro and hardly had we arrived when there were telephone messages from Grace Raju and Grace Lee asking us to fix dates for visits. The welcome in Jaffna was very heart-warming. At Uduppadi, Grace Lee showed me the room where Miss McDougall had stayed and told me how she had given her 24 kinds of garlands. I spent a very happy time with Eben Azariah in Manipay, Jaffna. That family has had two generations in College, in fact the daughter Vimala is doing her B.Sc. Home Science now. Vembadi, Uduvil, Chundukuli and many others which had been only names came alive and in such a happy friendly manner.

The bond that holds us together is something very precious and intangible—a wonderful gift that is the result of much thought, prayer and effort on the part of those who planned the College, and the staff who carry it through. May we cherish this gift and see that every one has a share of it.

Getsie R. Samuel

Miss Getsie Samuel (B.A. 1926) was head of All Saints Training School, Puthur, Trichinopoly till 1951. In 1951 she did her History M.A. in the University of California and then joined St. Christopher's Training College, Madras, as Principal.

THE COLOMBO CLUB

I am happy in being able to present to the readers of the *Sunflower*, for the first time, the report of our club founded two years ago to keep alive in the hearts of all old students a sense of loyalty and affection for the Alma Mater. We have now a membership of almost forty, and though on account of difficulties of transport it has not been possible for all of us to foregather as often as we held our meetings, I must say that greater interest and enthusiasm have been shown this year in the activities of the club—not the least, by the older members who have attended many of our meetings.

In May this year we were happy and proud to welcome our distinguished guests, Miss G. Samuel, Miss W. Dodd, and Miss A. Oommen who visited us in Colombo. The occasion of our meeting was a memorable one, for not only was this the first time the Old Students of W.C.C. welcomed them as members of a united organisation in Ceylon, but it brought home to us the living sense of close and cordial relationship with our Alma Mater itself. A feature of our welcome was the cake which was made in the shape of our college crest. The garden party was held at the residence of Mrs. Rani Asirwatham, the secretary of the club.

We would like to contribute as much as we can to the college and to the success of the *Sunflower*, which we hope will grow from strength to strength and find a place in the home of every Old Student—particularly in distant Ceylon.

In conclusion, on behalf of the club I wish to convey to the Principal, Staff and Students of the college, our very best wishes. We are confident that Women's Christian College will continue to contribute her utmost towards the establishment of the highest standards in India's moral, political, economic and social life during these critical transition years.

Rani Asirwatham,
Hon. Secy. of the W.C.C. Colombo Club.

COLOMBO CLUB REUNION

Sitting: (*left to right*).—MRS. ALAGARATNAM, MISS DODD, MISS G. SAMUEL, MISS A. OOMMEN, MRS. DHARMALINGAM, MRS. THAMBYRAJAH.
Standing: (*left to right*).—MRS. KURUVILLA, MISS KUMARAKULASINGAM, MRS. KARUNARATNAM, MISS L. CUMARASWAMY, MRS. SIVASUBRAMANIAM, MISS Y. PHILIPS, MISS MOSES, MRS. SUGATHAPALA, MRS. NALLIAH, MRS. CHARLES, MRS. ASIRWATHAM, MRS. NADARAJAH, DR. (MISS) LAWRENCE, MISS GNANAMUTTU.

NEWS OF DEPARTMENTS

THE MATHEMATICS ASSOCIATION

Report for the year 1953–1954

The mathematics students met for the first time on the 1st of July 1953 to elect the office-bearers for this year. The following were elected.—

C. A. Kamaladevi	... Class IV ...	*President.*
Sosamma John	... Class IV ...	*Secretary*
Loolu Susan Kurien	... Class II ...	*Treasurer.*
T. V. Seetha	... Class III ...	*Class representatives*
Sybil Nallathambi	... Class II ...	
Subbalakshmi	... Class I ...	

We had a committee meeting of the Association on the 8th of July to fix the date for the Mathematics Students' social which we decided to have on the 22nd of July.

The day of our social—one which we had been looking forward to—approached fast. Though we were not fortunate enough to have Miss Manuel and Miss Zachariah with us that evening, we had the pleasure of the company of Mrs. Murthi, who as well as the students enjoyed the function very much. We had songs, light games and of course some nice things to eat. We dispersed at about 6·30 with a feeling that mathematicians too can have some fun once in a while.

We met once again during the first term on the 26th of August and had great fun over some riddles.

During the second term we could arrange only one meeting which was on the 14th of October. Loolu Kurien of Class II spoke on 'Flatland.' The subject was quite a fascinating one.

Our last meeting was on the 3rd of February at which T. Sakunthala of Class I gave an interesting talk on 'Mathematical Recreations.' We were refreshed quite a lot after hearing her and we wondered why some people accuse Mathematics of being a dry subject!

I would like to put in one remark: the students—specially the non-resident students—ought to take more interest in the activities of our Association and they ought to be more regular in attending the meetings. I am sure they can manage to do so.

C. A. KAMALADEVI,
Class IV,
President.

K. AMBIKA (B.A. 1951) OUR LIBRARIAN, SELLING *Sunflower* TO B. H. VATSALA (1951) AND HER NIECE

LIBRARY REPORT—1953-'54

The year 1953–'54 witnessed the appointment of a full-time librarian, which meant that our library was thenceforward going to be a more important part and parcel of the College than it had been in previous years.

During the year, the Library Staff were assisted by the Students' Library Committee consisting of 18 volunteer members from different classes whose services proved extremely useful. A Staff Library Committee, known as the Library Executive Committee, consisting of heads or representatives of various departments was also formed to meet once a term and advise on library matters. Suggestions of both these groups were always found invaluable. A library Reading Circle came into existence in the second term. It was a sort of inner circle of the Library Committee at which an interesting book or any other good reading material was brought to the notice of students by chosen members.

417 books and 53 bound periodicals were added to the Library Stock in the current year, bringing, thereby, the total number of books to 11,333. Of these 417, 155 books belong to the Science Section, 45 to Literature, 49 to Scripture and 64 to Indian Languages. We had gifts from some of the Staff members. Special mention must be made of the priceless gift from the United States Information Service, which was a 'miniature library' of a hundred good American publications belonging to various fields of knowledge.

It was found a difficult task to meet satisfactorily the growing demand for fiction among the students. It would be interesting to know that, acting according to their suggestions, we have bought a few good books for the library out of their own fines, some of which are "Quo Vadis", "Random Harvest", "Elizabeth, Our Queen" and "Everyman's United Nations". (A Reference book).

An interesting feature of the library has always been the exhibition of pictures in the two show-cases placed in the Library Verandah. Every week the pictures were changed, which provided immense attraction for the Staff and Students alike. "Shows" appeared under various headings throughout the year, such as "the Epic of Everest", "Geography—and You—and Me", "Glory of Greece", "Truce in Korea", "Our Independence Day", "Bayeux Tapestry", "Frescoes of Ajanta and Ellora", "Specimens of Mughal Art and Architecture", "Masterpieces of South Indian Sculpture", "Animals in Art", "The Wonders of the Universe", "The Humming birds of America", "A Peep into England", "Dutch and Flemish Art" and so on.

The Telugu books that had long remained unclassified have been classified and catalogued towards the end of the year. A subject Catalogue has been introduced now, side by side with the Author Catalogue.

The open-access system, of which we are very proud, accounts for the homeliness and usefulness of our library; and I think that everyone who has had any occasion to peep into it must have felt the same, too.

K. Ambika.

[*Miss. Ambika (B.A.'51) gained a diploma in Librarianship, with distinctions, at the Madras University and is now our College librarian.*]

Best Wishes from

Leela Abraham

GAMES COMMITTEE REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1953 TO '54

Games Committee Members:

Staff Advisory Member ...Miss. A. Oommen.
Chairman ...Premila Muniswamy.
Inter-Collegiate representative ...Meenakshi Edwin.
Class IV representatives ...Sosamma John, Gracie Philip.
Class III representatives... Lalitha Sambandam, Kamalam Mathew.
Class II representatives... Rebecca Kuruvilla, Mariamma Kurien.
Class I representatives ...Mary George, Omana Thomas.

At the first meeting of the games committee Lalitha Sambandam was elected as secretary.

This year can be said to be quite a successful year for us. We annexed the Ashok Shield for sports but lost the championship cup for games just by half a point.

Throughout the year we carried out the same plan.

The only difference was that the games association introduced Table-tennis among the inter-collegiate matches and so we also had inter-class matches in table-tennis.

The twins as usual were a great asset to our College, and along with Meenakshi Edwin played a large part in getting the sports shield. My hearty congratulations to the twins Molly and Gracie. The College will miss them very much next year.

During the first term we first finished our inter-collegiate matches in Throwball and Tennikoit. Though our team for throwball was quite a good one we lost to Stella Maris college and so were runners-up. In our inter-class matches the Second Years who had good teams for both the games had easy victories over the other classes. Class IV were runners-up in Throwball while the First Years who showed great interest in Tennikoit were runners-up in it.

Netball and Badminton matches during the 2nd term were very interesting. Netball as usual was very thrilling. But we lost to Y.M.C.A. Anyway we are glad to say that we beat Holy Cross College in the inter-divisional finals. We were runners-up in Badminton also. In the inter-class matches Class II were winners in Netball with Class III as runners-up. Class III were winners in Badminton and Class IV were runners-up. At the end of the 2nd term we had the inter-zonal sports. Our girls secured many first and second places. Madras Zone came first.

The 3rd tern was the busiest of all terms. We had only a few intercollegiate matches because many colleges did not take part in Tennis and Softball. We were winners in Softball and we had a very easy victory over the other Colleges. In Table-Tennis we were runners-up. In the class matches Class IV were runners-up in Softball, Tennis and Table-Tennis while Class II were runners-up in all three.

The inter-collegiate Sports Meet kept us busy at College. W.C.C. led the march past as last year's winners. We are proud to say that even this year we are the winners. Molly Philip got the individual championship.

With the College Sports our games activities came to an end. Class IV came first and Class II were second. The individual championship was shared between Molly Philip and Mariamma Kurien. In the obstacle race for the staff members Miss Rowe took the first place with Mrs. Jagadish second. In musical chairs Miss. S. Samuel came first and Miss Marjorie Tinkoo of the C.S.V. came second. In addition to our usual items we had a race for the attenders.

The cup for the Blue given by an old student which is given to the class which is best in games throughout the year was shared by Classes IV and II.

Our success was due to the guidance of Miss Oommen and the co-operation of the Games Committee and the Students. The Games Committee will be missing Miss Oommen very much as she has gone abroad.

I wish my successor Meenakshi Edwin the very best of luck in the coming year.

PREMILA MUNISWAMY,
(*Chairman for games*, 1953–54)

With the Best Compliments of Rachel Samuel and Annie Samuel.

NUTRITION DEPARTMENT 1953-1954

Many people may think that the raising of money for the new Home Science building was the chief work of the Nutrition Department for this past year but the tinkle of the coins falling in the hundi box was just the musical accompaniment of the work which was as varied as usual. Some of the higher spots were as follows:

Village work.—Regular visits to villages in and around Madras continued. The talks given made use of many types of visual aids, conducted cooking demonstrations and cooking competitions. IVth year Home Science and Christa Seva Vidhyalaya Students sometimes assisted.

Lectures.—A series of nutrition talks were given in six Madras Schools and at Anandagiri. Single lectures were given in several places such as St. Christopher's Training College and Ethiraj College—also to the Conference of Indian Council of Labour and Welfare. A special course emphasizing visual aids, including a rat experiment, was given to the Public Health Trainees at Balfour Hall, Kilpauk. Also a series of four lectures were given to the Home Science Teachers who met with Miss Wybourne each Saturday. A short course for the school of Social Work was given in March.

There were some new adventures—one was in connection with a course in catering when Miss Pearson acted as Chairman of the Course and Mrs. Philip and Miss Theophilus lectured once a month.

At the Annapoorna Restaurant—ten minute food talks were given at intervals through the evening. In between, interested people could ask questions. These take a great deal of courage and a good voice.

Tours and Camps.—by Mrs. Philip—

1. At the request of the Madras Government she toured the Famine Areas of Tanjore, Ramnad and Tinnevelly to popularize wheat and sold it even in the gruel lines.

2. In August she attended the Y.W.C.A. Conference at Kerala and visited Mavelikara, Kottayam, Ernakulam, etc.

3. In October a tour was conducted through the Tea Estates in Nilgiris at the invitation of the Managers and talks were given to the men and women workers on the Estate who came in large numbers.

4. In December there was a tour of South Canara addressing High Schools and Women's Meetings.

5. February—A tour of the Western Ghats—such places as Miraj and Kholapur—addressing Women's Meetings and Nurses.

6. In April—A tour at Gudur—This included a talk to the workers of the Mica Mines.

7. Tour of Community Project areas of the Madras State helping village level workers to get some training in Nutrition.

Miss Annie Philip attended the N.M.S. Camp at Tirukoilur. She gave some food talks to the campers and talks to the village women when others were carrying out their social work programme.

Exhibitions Conducted by the Department.—In September there was the Sixth Conference of Social Workers at Vellore: Mrs. Philip read a paper on 'Nutritive Value of Food in Industrial Kitchens'. Miss Iswariah was also present.

In December Miss Annie Philip held a Stall at the Annual Agricultural Exhibition at Katpadi, The 'White Rats' proved, as usual, to be a great attraction.

The Department also had a stall at the All India Women's Food Council Conference held in Madras.

March 5th and 6th.—The Annual Home Science Exhibition held in conjunction with Queen Mary's College—was opened by His Excellency Mr. Escott Reid, High Commissioner for Canada in India

With the Best Compliments of A. Thomas

March 25th to 28th.—A stall at the Nagari Agriculture Exhibition won a First Prize.

In Research Work.—Miss Philomena has continued her work on animal experiments. Miss Theophilus inspired 4th Year students to remain after the final examinations to carry out further experiments in Human Nutrition.

The studies of the Effect of Cooking on certain Vitamins has been continued by Miss M. Lalitha and Miss M. V. Neela. Mrs. Rowlands was granted her M.Sc., from the Madras University in this field.

Important Visitors.—Tea parties were given during the year in which the whole Department co-operated.

November 6th.—There was a party for the Hon. Mr. James Sinclair, Canadian Minister of Fisheries and His Excellency Mr. Escott Reid, High commissioner for Canada in India.

February 28th.—A tea party sponsored by the Canadians in Madras for the party which travelled with the Canadian Prime Minister and Government Representatives was cooked and served by the Nutrition Staff and Home Science Students.

We must not fail to mention the cooking competition carried on through *The Mail.* It has been hard work but very interesting and we are delighted at the response. One Month we received over 160 recipes. We called in everyone around to sample and judge.

During the year Mrs. Karunakar came from Coimbatore to join the Extension Staff. Susheela Iswariah left us at the end of the year and is at present working for the Dalda Advisory committee of the Hindusthan Vanaspati Company, but Mrs. Eva Sunderrajan has returned after an absence of four years. Miss Anne Abraham who was demonstrating went to Ceylon to teach at Anthony's Convent, but Mrs. Godavari Kamalanathan has returned to the Department. We regret that Miss M. Lalitha who has been in the Research Department has to leave our Department due to health reasons. This Department has been joined by Miss Mary Jacob and Miss Susan John.

We already have an exciting programme for 1954—55 and are looking ahead eagerly to our work.

D. P.

COLLEGE BOOKS

A varied stock always on hand

Items not in stock procured to order

THE BOOK CENTRE

1-155, Mount Road, Madras-2

EXTENSION DEPARTMENT OF THE WOMENS' CHRISTIAN COLLEGE

The extension work sprouted out of the Nutrition Department in the year 1946. In addition to the work in the Collge classes, Miss Pearson organised the extension work and now it is spreading beyond her expectations. She guides the team of workers with her technique, new ideas, improved plans and the use of modern equipment. The root of this big tree of extension work is in her—SELF—and now the tree is growing high and is spreading its teaching in many directions. Miss Pearson gives a series of lectures to the students of the School of Social Work. She reads papers in Conferences and is on the Famine Relief Committee where she is able to share her experiences and suggestions. Her services in writing articles on Nutrition, checking diets of other institutions and giving advice on malnutrition—are so numerous that it makes a heavy demand on her time.

Nutrition Lectures.—are delivered with the help of posters, flannelgraph, flash cards, raw ingredients and practical demonstrations in the slums. The work has been done in—70 towns outside Madras, from Calcutta and Lucknow to Tirunevelly—and in the villages too.

The main teaching in our lectures is to guide all levels of people to the right choice of food. Health and longevity have been looked upon since the beginning of time as something to be desired. Although, through the years, men have searched to discover the secret of life, it is within the last half century that the greatest strides have been made by science in the knowledge of the prolongation of life. There are those to-day who are like the man who lost his life and fortune travelling around the world in search of diamonds while the greatest diamond mine in the world was discovered in his own yard. Many are seeking youth and health in sundry medicines and various fads but they overlook the diamond mine of health near at hand. The greatest insurance of a long and abundant life has been discovered to be above all other factors the *Right Choice* of food—in other words to draw the attention of the people to the principles of good and bad nutrition.

Laboratory work.—chiefly analysis of food stuffs is filled up into our programme and Extension Work. Samples of American 'Boulgour' and 'Magic' wheat also came under our observation. Their contents of Protein, fat and minerals were analysed and compared with those of our own variety of wheat—this work being done throughout the year as we receive new samples.

Home Science Building Fund.—'The 1 Anna' collection for the New Building was organised here and groups of students, and staff went round the city as well as in their home towns, collecting in Hundi boxes from every person at least an anna. The amount has risen to Rs. 7,6001 but our target is Rs. 10,000. We still have great hopes that that amount will be reached. If any of our readers have not contributed yet, we request you to send in your gift to Miss Pearson, Nutrition Department, Womens' Christian College, Madras. Thank you.

Recipe Competitions.—The Recipe competitions introduced through *The Mail* entail some interesting work. This will serve the purpose of compiling a cook-book. The interest shown by women all over South India has been very encouraging and recipes have poured in rapidly from all communities. Some of the more interesting and simple ones were tested for some of their food values in the hope that if the results proved good they could be used for the improvement of school and hostel diets.

Government has appreciated our method of approach and has requested Miss Pearson to arrange to take a film show of the work, so that it may be shown in all the picture houses all over the country. Finance is the problem!

We are a very small unit at work but can humbly say that we are trying to do our best for the country.

H. K. P.

K. Lakshminarayanamma 1941, *sends Compliments to her Classmates*

HISTORY

The department of History in the college is rather small in terms of the number of students in the four classes: Class I—30, Class II—29, Class III—14 and Class IV—11. The small classes make it easy for the teachers to get to know the students and give the weak students individual help and guidance in their work.

We are very proud that Nalini Devanandan of '53 History B.A. won the medal as the top candidate in the whole University and Kaladevi first place in the Economics joint paper. There were three 2nd classes and one 1st class, and the rest passed in all three parts.

There has been no change in the Syllabus but the Intermediate Modern History syllabus is rather wider than it was some years ago.

The Current Events Club had very few meetings this year. On October 30th, three members read papers on British Guiana, Korea, and the Andhra State, which was followed by a general discussion. On November 26th the Club conducted a Quiz, at the end of which the president, Miss Rowe, distributed sweets to the participants. There was a joint meeting with the History Association, when Rao Sahib B. Soma Sundara Rao spoke on the origin of Madras, but said more in support of his thesis 'Madras—a Telugu City'. To celebrate UNO day, there was a symposium on the UNO in one of the Assembly Hours, when Miss F. Theophilus, Miss Ellis and Mathuram Thambipillai took part. Three students went to hear Professor Robson from the London School of Economics on UNO day and later in the week, he led a discussion on 'Women's Role in Politics' in an informal meeting with the B.A. History students. Our students also attended the Economic convention in Madras and were much impressed with the mock session of the UNO organised by the Loyola College.

Miss Muriel Lester addressed the History Association and her friend, Miss Gladys Owen, spoke on Gandhiji's visit to England.

At another meeting four students read papers on historical anecdotes connected with the lives of Chandra Gupta Maurya and Akbar. Some of the students went to see the art and archaeological section in the All India Congress Exhibition. The 3rd B.A. History students were taken to the Madras Museum to see the relics of Indian Sculpture through the ages. Our Urdu pandit Mr. H. M. G. Abbas Ali addressed the Junior B.A. Politics students on the 'Origin and Growth of Islam and its doctrines'. Dr. Zernov from Oxford spoke to the same class on 'Communism in Russia'.

The Junior and Senior B.A. History students went on an excursion to Ajanta and Ellora and were able to visit Poona, Bombay, Aurangabad and Hyderabad en route. This was possible because the College gave a grant and because of the enthusiasm of the students who were willing to give up their trip to their respective homes during the September holidays. The Ajanta frescoes, Ellora sculptures, tomb of Emperor Aurangazeb's wife (a miniature of the Taj), and the Salar Jung Museum in Hyderabad were the highlights of this trip.

E. T.

With Best Wishes from K. Ambika; Seema Sengar; and Radha Bhat

ENGLISH

Besides the regular College work, two activities generally fall to the direction of the English Department: the Annual Play, and the Literary Circle.

This year we departed from our usual practice of acting a Shakespeare play—we hope only temporarily—and turned to the comedy of the Eighteenth Century. "The Rivals" by Sheridan may claim to be a true product of the comic spirit, playing as it does with many variations on the theme of the contrast between illusion and reality. The actors entered into the fun both at rehearsals and performances. We can boast of two theatres, and we made use of the Garden Stage and the Assembly Hall. On the first day we began on the former, but were driven by a light shower in the very middle of the Play to take refuge in the latter, where all had been prepared for such an emergency. This kind of thing is enough to cause a headache to the producer, but the actors said they enjoyed the change! The audiences at all three performances seemed to appreciate our efforts.

We are ashamed to confess that for some time there has been no regular Literary and Debating Society, run by the students, as there should be. It is hoped that this deficiency will be remedied in the new year. In the meantime, efforts have been made to cause the Literary Circle to perform an occasional revolution (not in the political sense of the word). We are very grateful for the stimulus provided by our friends of the British Council. Mr. Bach gave us a talk on Homer, which inspired at least one student to read Dr. Rieu's translation of the Odyssey in the Penguin series. Mr. Norminton gave us an exciting account of the Elizabethans, and on another occasion judged a Poetry Reading Competition. This was a difficult task, as each student had chosen her own piece. Finally the three most promising were put to read Wordsworth's Solitary Reaper, and as a result Usha Gideon and Jean Burch divided the Prize.

M. M.

SANSKRIT

The Sanskrit Department seems to be a rather inactive one, owing to the small number of students taking this language, and the absence of a Sanskrit Association. The only outside activity in which our Sanskrit students took part was the Inter-Collegiate Recitation Competition, held in Madras Christian College, for the award of the Vishalakshi rolling cup.

In the inter-class recitation competition held in the third term, five students took part. First and second prizes were won and a special prize was awarded to R. Padma of Class III for her musical talents.

K. J.

URDU

The total number of Urdu Students in the College in the year 1953–'54, was only four. With this small number of students, it was not possible for the Urdu Department to show any appreciable activity! However, we did the best we could. Our students staged a drama, enacting the story of Nur Jehan and Jehangir, showing how just Jehangir was even in the case of his beloved Queen who had shot an onlooker dead. Nur Jehan was bound in chains to serve the sentence of the Judges, but with the consent of the heirs of the dead man, she paid a ransom and was released from the penalty in accordance with Islamic law. Among those that took part in the drama, Shama Santh Singh acted best.

We held a debate on the need of a common language for India and on the choice of a language that could serve as the *lingua franca* of our land. The discussions were very spirited. Some of the students were in favour of Urdu and some in favour of Hindi, but Shama's well argued speech decided the question in favour of Hindustani. She got the first prize as decided by the judges.

G.A.A.

Best Wishes from Margaret Moore

FIRST IMPRESSIONS

When I arrived in Bombay the middle of September last year I was suddenly plunged into a sea of people talking a strange language, madly looking for friends, saying good-bye to friends made on the boat, hunting for luggage and finally for a customs official. I had an amusing time with the man inspecting my baggage for my efforts to work the combination on a trunk wore him down to the point where he passed all but a small suitcase without even opening the other things. The latter he looked at in a very cursory fashion and I was through.

I spent four days in Bombay learning to bargain in the bazaar, buying a bed roll, water canteen and the usual equipment for train travel in this country. I had been warned that I should not make my first trip across India by train but I shall always be glad that I did for it is the way to see the country. That trip made me realize how much the Bible is a book of the East—the importance of the well, the flocks of sheep and goats and their shepherds.

In Madras I was again thrown into a seething mass of humanity all talking at once and wanting to carry bags. Here however I was met by a very friendly group of Women's Christian College staff. The only one I had met was Miss Florence Theophilus whom I had known in the United States when she was at Vassar College. She proceeded to garland me—which was a new experience. I had thought garlands were typical of Hawaii but I soon learned that they are a good Indian custom. My baggage was quickly located and put on the college bus and before I knew it I was being garlanded by the students who were left in college during the vacation. Here I was after a month of travel. I was fortunate in having the vacation not only to rest but to become acquainted with some of the students and to try to learn their names. It also gave me time to learn my way about the lovely compound. I missed the green grass but the flowering shrubs and trees and the new and different birds more than compensated.

I have now lived in Madras for nine months and during the vacations have been to Calcutta, Darjeeling, Jamshedpur, Banaras, Mysore, Delhi, Jaipur, Agra and Kashmir. I am impressed by the vastness of the country with its great variety in people, language, religion, dress and climate. Independence has brought to the country great problems which have been made much more difficult by partition. Everywhere I hear of the Five Year Plan and I see evidence of its working out. The Village Industries Exhibition in Delhi this summer showed how much is being done in introducing simple improvements in methods of spinning and weaving, in introducing new varieties of seeds and new breeds of cattle and chickens, in adding metal tips on the old wooden plows and, for some jobs such as jungle clearance, using tractors. India is working with great energy and vision to solve all its many problems but the unemployment and starvation are problems of such urgency that one hopes they will be solved quickly enough.

I have tremendous respect for Nehru and Mrs. Pandit and think that India is lucky to have such leaders. I try to read all that I can including the daily newspaper so that when I get home I can do a little in interpreting India to my friends. There is a saying that a person who visits India for a few weeks goes home and writes a book, one who stays a few months writes a series of articles and one who stays a year writes a brief report. At that rate I will not have to do any writing but I know I will be talking about India the rest of my life.

Dr. Ruth Ellis.
(Prof. of Chemistry 1953—).

All good wishes to the Graduates of 1931 from Mary Masillamani

KRISTIN LAVRANSDATTER

A Radio Book-Review by K. R. PADMABAI (1936-'40)

The book that I am going to talk to you about this evening is one of the greatest novels of the world. It is 'Kristin Lavransdatter' by the well-known Norwegian Novelist Sigrid Undset, who is perhaps not as well known as she deserves to be in this country. The setting of the story is Scandinavia in the fourteenth century—wild primitive times as compared with ours, but life in its fundamentals was much the same then as it is today. It is a huge volume over a thousand pages long and divided into three books—'The Garland', 'The Mistress of Husaby' and 'The Cross'. All three titles have reference to the heroine Kristin Lavransdatter—'The garland' is her childhood and girlhood in the house of her father Lavrans. 'The Mistress of Husaby' is Kristin in the glory and prime of her womanhood, the proud mistress of her husband Erlend Nikulansson's manor of Husaby and the mother of seven fair sons. 'The Cross' is Kristin at the end of her life, living in a cloister, separated from her sons. She is a widow now, for Erlend her husband is dead,—Erlend who had been the great love and sorrow of her life, through whom had come to her, life's deepest experiences of joy and pain, and for whose sake she had sinned in all manner of ways—against God, against her parents and against all the laws of Christian living. It is a new Kristin this, her self-will broken by the sorrows of the world, a woman humbled and chastened by suffering and at last finding the peace which she had sought all her life in God.

The Book is a very human document crowded with human characters all true to life and most convincingly drawn and telling of human emotions and passions—love, joy, sorrow, friendship, affection, aspiration, loyalty, holiness, adultery, blood-guiltiness, treachery, jealousy; in short all the manfestations of good and evil in human nature. But the unique quality of the book comes from this fact, that over this human scene rests strongly the shadow of the other world, and by the other world I mean the everlasting world of the spirit. In other words it is human things looked at 'sub specie aeternitatis', from the point of view of eternity. The author is an ardent professing and practising Roman Catholic and the Book is imbued with the Roman Catholic Philosophy of life.

'Kristin Lavransdatter' is the story of a pilgrimage, the pilgrimage of a human soul through this so fair alluring earth but with evil ever lurking beneath, onwards to the city of God. The novel is essentially a record of sin and expiation and salvation. Kristin Lavransdatter is one of the immortals of fiction. She is a very beautiful woman, masterful, ruthless, arrogant, self-willed. In order to get what she wants, she breaks many hearts, she brings dishonour on honourable folk and she acquiesces in the death of the woman who stood between her and her lover. Kristin certainly is a sinful woman, but she is also a woman greatly beloved. To Lavrans her father, Simon Darre her betrothed whom she cast off, to Erlend her husband, to Ulf Haldarsson, she is dearer than life itself. Because in spite of everything she is a great-hearted loving courageous woman. She takes what she wants from life and she pays for it and in the process, realisation comes to her that . . .

'The life of the body was tainted with unrest beyond all cure; in the world where men mixed, begot new generations, were driven together by fleshly love, and loved their own flesh, there came heart-ache and broken hopes, as surely as rime comes in autumn; both life and death sundered at last, as surely as winter parts the trees from its leaves.'

This is a philosophy of life with which no sane thoughtful person can quarrel and its logical conclusion is St. Augustine's words; 'For thou madest us for thyself and our heart is restless until it repose in thee'.

This, Kristin learns after infinite sin, infinite sorrow. And so the final word is peace, the peace which passeth understanding, the peace which is found in God and in God only.

To the sensitive reader, who reads this great and moving novel, it cannot but be and remain for always an unforgettable and a nobly rewarding and enriching spiritual experience.

(Published by kind Permission of All India Radio, Madras.)

' CHORUS TONIGHT AT 6 ! '

Every Thursday this notice goes up on the College Notice Board, and when the clock strikes six, practice begins.

The College Chorus: which now enters its fourth year, was started in January 1951 by a friendly visitor to the College, Miss Madge, now on the Music Staff of St. Hilda's School, Ootacamund. While she was with us Miss Madge put new life into all our singing, and when she moved on to the Nilgiris she left us a set of Community Song Books (our first music material) and—more valuable still—a legacy of enthusiasm.

The Chorus has grown since then and now numbers a steady 38, with a Waiting List—should anyone drop out. The waiting list really *is* a 'waiting' list, for in the past three years only three people have left our ranks. Each year we welcome about 18 new singers to our group to take the places of those who move on at Convocation and after Intermediate. This past year we had four members who had belonged to the Chorus since its beginning, i.e.. who had been members during each of their four years in College. This group which will grow from year to year is called the Clef Club, and each member leaves College with a small pin symbolic of her musical interest. We are delighted to learn that one of the first Clef Club members, who is now teaching school in Ceylon, has started a Glee Club of her own!

In addition to helping with the singing in Chapel each day, the Chorus has a musical goal each term. In the First Term there is Convocation Day and the Annual College Play, for which we sometimes provide back ground music. In the Second Term there is the Christmas Service; and in the Third Term, the Spring Sing, when we share the songs we have been enjoying with our College family and a small group of friends from outside. This year we hope we can prepare Choral responses to prayer and special music for occasional Sunday Evening Services.

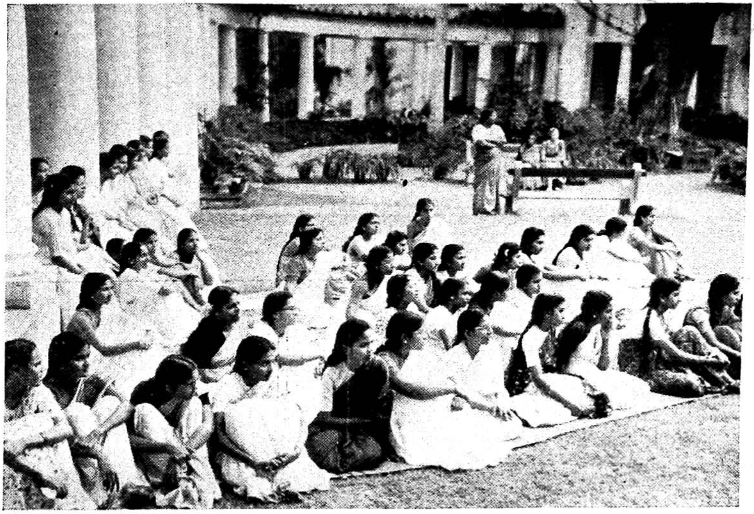
No account of the Chorus, however short, is complete without mentioning our good friends here and abroad who have made it possible for us to carry on. We think especially of the Glee Club of Mount Holyoke, our Sister College, and of Miss Alma G. Stokey, Professor Emerita of Botany at Mount Holyoke (and on our Women's Christian College Staff, 1929–37). From them we have received gifts of music which have enriched our Chorus library immeasurably. We thank them all.

B. M. Corfield
Prof. of English, 1951–.

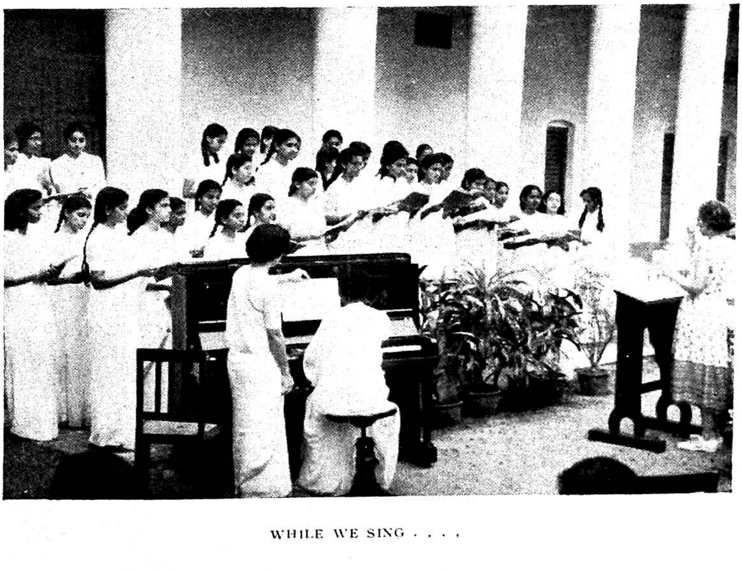
Greetings to the Alumnae of '21 from Sarah Joseph.

पाई ज्योति यहाँ जो उससे जग को जग को जगमग करदो—प्रेमावती.

CONNEMARA PUBLIC LIBRARY
10 DEC 1956



THEY LISTEN . . . .



WHILE WE SING . . . .

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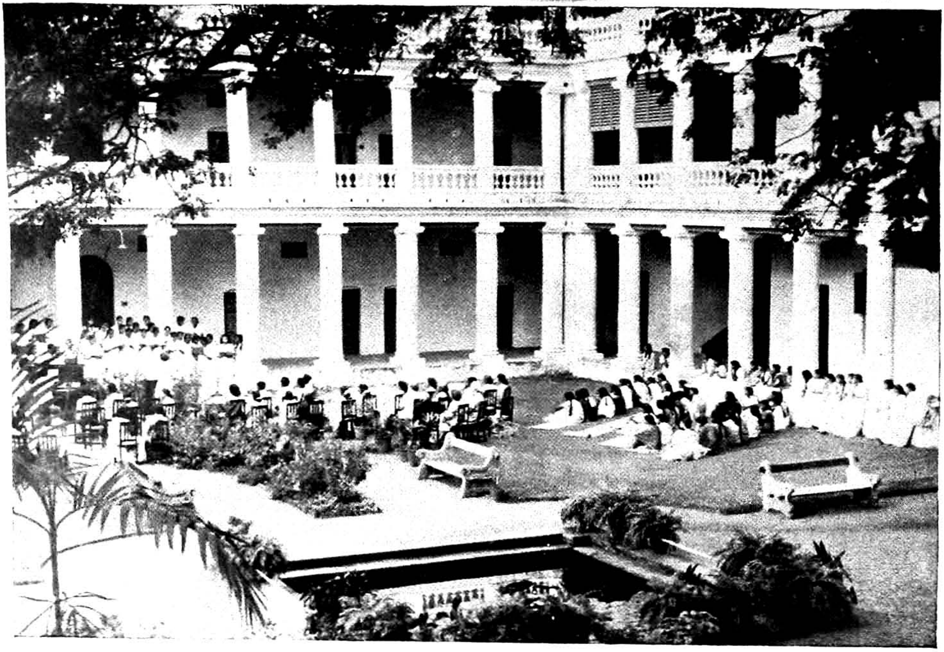

THE 'SPRING SING'—1954

'FROM STRENGTH TO STRENGTH'

A REPORT ON THE McDOUGALL MEMORIAL NURSERY SCHOOL

The McDougall Memorial Nursery School, an offspring of our Alumnae Association, has definitely increased in stature during the last few years and especially during the last academic year.

The number on roll this year is 49, including both boys and girls. Many applicants had to go away disappointed, having been refused admission, because our school can accommodate only this number. We continue to follow, in our admissions, the sacred principle with which this nursery school was originally started; namely, that of catering specially to the needs of the children of the slum area in Mohammedan Gardens. The others living in that area outside our school also receive our help through our College social work.

Last year a new Headmistress was appointed for the school and the Inspectress, in her report, has expressed her satisfaction regarding the activities and discipline of the school.

One striking feature is the marked improvement in the health of our school children. Almost all the children look pictures of perfect health, with the graces of happiness and contentment glowing in their faces. Two visitors to our school from the Central Social Welfare Board, Delhi, were very much impressed by these healthy children. The children are given free lunch every day and also milk.

Occasions like the Parents' Day and the Christmas Party, as well as special talks during the year arranged for the parents, help in bringing together parents and children of the different homes in that area, in a happy and friendly atmosphere.

We have received recently some financial help from certain agencies. The Central Social Welfare Board at New Delhi has kindly sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1000 for our school, to be spent exclusively on the activities of the school, and we have already received the first instalment of Rs. 500. We have agreed to contribute a matching share of Rs. 1000, as that is one of the conditions of the grant. We immediately placed orders with Uberois for certain Play-equipment like the see-saw and the slide which the children are sure to love. These cost about Rs. 500.

Another sum of Rs. 75 has been received from the Corporation of Madras as food-grant for the school.

Certain changes have been effected in the school compound. The Playground for the tiny tots has been improved and the school gate has been shifted from its former place to the other side of the compound facing the main lane.

There have been some changes in the administrative side also. Miss A. Oommen, the former Manager and Correspondent of the school left for Canada this summer and the vacancy has been filled by Miss M Masillamani. Further, the accounts of the Alumnae Association and the accounts of the Nursery School were hitherto manged by one person. Miss S. Thomas has been the Treasurer for both institutions. But now, this year, the two accounts have been separated; the accounts of the Nursery School will be operated by Miss P. Devaraj. This new arrangement has to be confirmed at the Business Meeting on College Day.

The annual College Play which is the main source of income for the maintenance of the school is coming off in August '54 and every effort has to be made by the Alumnae members as well as the present students for the success of the show, for it means, eventually, the success of the school.

May our Nursery School live long !

MISS SURIYA SAMUEL
Secretary of the Nursery School.

All good wishes from Mummy, Rachel G. Thomas (née Simon).

Compliments of Mr. and Mrs. Manoraj Sumanam.

"1937 *Graduates, I am here: won't you come to College to visit us?*"
Mariam Chacko.

With Best Wishes from a Friend.

Best Compliments from Mr. and Mrs. Anantharaj.

Greetings from Miss M. N. Chandrakantham, B.A. '42; *Miss M. N. Kantimathi, M.A.* '42; *Miss M. N. Duraiasmy, M.A.* '43.

From the Few Members of the Nagercoil Club—With Best Wishes.

EXTRACTS FROM COLLEGE NEWS

AWARDS OF MEDALS AND COLLEGE PRIZES

The Miller Medal—(for the best candidate in the University B.A. Examination)—K. Mary.

The Pentland Prize—(for the best candidate in the Intermediate Examination)—Lalitha Sambantham.

The Edith M. Coon Science Prize—(for the most outstanding science student in Class III)—Raji Rao, Shanti Masilamani.

The Senior Miller Scripture Prize—to be announced.

The Junior Miller Scripture Prize—Anna Vareed, S. E. Rajkumari.

English Prize—(for the best work in English in Class II)—S. Murugapillai, Lakshmi Devanandan, and Vera Augustus.

The Margaret Bretherton Prize—(for the best work in English in Class I —Gita Nair.

The Eleanor McDougall History Prize—(for the most outstanding History student in Class IV)—Nalini Devanandan.

The Jessie Thomson Prize—(for the most outstanding History student in Class II)—Vera Augustus.

The Mary C. Jacob Memorial Prize—(for the most distinguished student in University B.Sc. Examination)—Mary Jacob.

The Rivett Prize—(for the best article in the College News)—Nalini Rai.

UNIVERSITY MEDALS AND AWARDS

The Miller Medal—(First in the Presidency for Philosophy)—Nirmala Edwin.

The Sir. C. V. Kumaraswami Sastri Medal—(First in the Presidency for History)—Nalini Devanandan.

The Aleyamma Chakko Prize—(First in the Presidency in the B.Sc. Home Science Group)—Mary Jacob.

RAIN HOLIDAY

I woke up in the morning on the 14th of October to find that the day had dawned with a non-stopping and torrential rain. Our house was practically an island, surrounded on all sides by about two feet of water. The morning newspaper showed a record of six inches of rain since earlymorning. I was getting worried as to how I was going to get to college in time. I knew for certain that we would have classes as usual, for I had often heard students grumble (on days when we had games in spite of rain) that W.C.C. would not stop working, even if the whole world was flooded out. However, since our college was not going to give us a rain holiday, I decided to take one myself.

Sitting at home wrapped up in blankets owing to my susceptibility to colds, I enviously thought of the great fun the uncontrolled residents must be enjoying.

The next day when I went to college what do you think caught my attention? A mischievous resident had written on the notice board, 'W.C.C. makes history. Rain Holiday.' No classes? No! I couldn't believe my eyes. This could never be true. 'But it is true,' assured my resident friends. Poor non-residents! Many of them had come to college from far off places, getting themselves drenched, only to find that there were to be no classes that day.

But the real fun about the rain holiday was to follow. Just as it had rained on that 'classic day,' it was raining continuously another day the following week. I had high hopes of W.C.C. making history a second time. Sure of getting an affirmative reply I telephoned to the principal asking her whether there was going to be another rain-holiday. 'Of course not,' replied a severe voice. 'Rain or no rain, you are having classes today.' Sadly I put the phone down saying, 'History may repeat itself, but never in W.C.C.'.

G. MALATHI, II

From a Friend.

ON TAKING NOTES

I have known many people who have gone through their college years in a sort of carefree somnambulance. 'I slept', they say, 'peacefully for a good twenty minutes,' which always has me gape at them rather curiously for I am given to raging unhappy battles with sleep. Many have been the occasions when I fixed the lecturer with a cross-eyed and vacant gaze interrupted occasionally by nods, the precursors of a troubled doze. The trouble of course being the taking down of notes. However, after about six months of it one is soon adept at the art of merely hearing each word and putting it down upon paper, neither marking, learning or inwardly digesting it. At least you have the words down, many of your poor unfortunate sisters having completely surrendered to peaceful slumbers have not.

Notes are notes—one can copy them at one's leisure or in one's spare hours—but how often the spare hours settle themselves directly and solidly before the Examinations. Who will lend you their notes to copy in your own book; will anyone copy them for you? Such a predicament may be all right at the end of one term or two, but three and six is just too much. Perhaps when you go home you can prevail upon some gullible relative to copy stacks of these into your note-books. I for one have been the victim of such an affair with the result that I am a firm supporter of 'do unto others as you would have others do unto you.' For days I went about with such of the milder terms as Lepidopterons, Trighycerides and Xanthophyll ringing in my head, also much awearied by trips to the dictionary because the spelling of my cousin's classmate was not fit to be met in twilight. This didn't quite meet my cousin's approval, because the main purpose of filling his note-book was to impress his professor even if his examination answers did not. A delightful attitude, indeed.

Perhaps you are the type who adorns her note-book with delightful little works of art, a likeness of the lecturer, Lord Byron or a boat in full sail upon the high seas? This shows a haphazard and wandering mind, not to speak of the damage it is supposed to do your pen. I am given to it myself but am not ashamed of it at all, I hope however that these fruits of my intellect will get nowhere near a Psychoanalyst. Imagine the mountains of secret designs and dark deeds that might be discovered—oh horror, 'twere best I curbed my intellect so as not to disclose them.

Perhaps you are given to composing verse when you should be doing something else—marking and inwardly digesting—perhaps your numb intellect comes out with gems like:

> I sit within the English class, my mind is like a feather
> And poetree and lethargee are fighting one another.

If I were you, I would dimly perceive that it lacks the touch of a master. But don't be disheartened, there are a few like you—this tendency shows that you have rhyme and rhythm. You might one day find yourself lecturing before a class which gazes steadfastly, absorbing or oblivious to your talents. Be patient—there is nothing like patience.

To take good and sensible notes you must pay attention. Relax, put by all other useless arguments, stop thinking of your parents, your cousin Albert or the Morris Minor you might one day own. Mark, learn and inwardly digest, remember what Erasmus said and what all imparters of knowledge stress. Read your notes, which after following the above rules are bound to be valuable, every night. You'll get knowledge in that way, not by consuming stacks of other people's indecipherable endeavours just before your Chemistry or Politics papers. That is disastrous—it just should not be done.

If you pay attention you will also catch some of the delightful little outbursts of humour from the lecturer: 'w-h-o-l-e and not h-o-l-e.' If you don't you'll wake up to peals of laughter from your classmates and you'll feel left out. There's nothing so hopeless as feeling left out.

USHA GIDEON, *III.*

Compliments of Saramma Oommen.

POIKILOTHERMAL

Very few are the people who can remain unruffled. Often these calm self-possessed people have drawn from me envious looks of admiration, and I have set about to emulate these monuments to patience. A calm acceptance of a rain-holiday in the middle of the week, an event which sends me to near hysteria, draws from me 'cold blooded devil' with rounded emphasis on each syllable. There is nothing so expressive. Easy on the tongue it is expressive of a great deal. It is one of my most forceful ejaculations, standing next to that brief bark of 'hell'. Could you then expect me to turn my back on my pet swear phrase just because the Physiology Prof. last week in no uncertain terms took an hour to dispel the age-old notion of cold-blooded and hot-blooded animals and to assign the very tame and sissyish 'Poikilothermal' for my pet ejaculation? Poikilothermal—how loose a word! It turns on the tongue with about as much emphasis as the water which dribbles out from the taps in April. Could anyone call a cold-blooded prig a 'poikilothermal devil' and still maintain that wry tight-lipped contempt? Surely poikilothermal is a fit accompaniment for giggles?

Botany I am loathe to say is hardly the subject which people with a turn for art should take up. It tends to nip talent in the bud. A botanist cannot see a spray of flowers on the canvas but must add to the piece the hideous lateral projections which in botanical jargon are called Bracts, Sepals, Stipules—which in nature are so cleverly found that they enhance the beauty without thirsting for attention. The first class I had in Botany found me with a sprig of leaves. It seemed to be drunk with sunshine, green and lush. The end of the hour found it dissected, the stem lying stripped of its crown, the leaves sad and crushed on the work desk. But my record book had a leafy branch, one which my soul exulted over. But the adjectives which were spent over this first attempt of mine.... .! The number of floral structures I had left out, I was told severely, was more than the ones I had put in. A whole series of them ranging from the bracts I had learnt in class to 'free lateral stipules', 'extra floral glands', 'pulvinate imparipinnate leaves'. Well now couldn't I well support Alphonse Kerr when he called Botany the art of insulting flowers and fruits in Greek and Latin?

Zoology. Now, that is a subject which in one is a supporter as well as an opposer of the ideals of the S.P.C.A. Whole colonies of cockroaches and earthworms and frogs are deprived of their citizens. Disaster comes in the shape of the attender and a thriving kingdom is deprived of its citizens, in the flower of manhood, plucked by the cruel hand of fate. But once safely dead, the creatures have no better champion for their physical safety than the vigilant Profs. You have but to clean up the 'innards' of a cockroach or try to arrange the highly coloured inside of a frog to give a pleasing harmony of colours, there you are. You have the Prof. right on you like a ton of bricks exclaiming in tragic tones, 'What have you DONE! the nerve cord..... you've pulled it out.' In her despair she doesn't forget to delete a big chunk of your marks. Can you wonder if the impulse is to pour boiling water on the cockroaches which creep from under the bath-tub? The textbook gives under Habitat 'hides in in dark places and creeps into narrow crevices' which explained to me why they can appear from nowhere even after you've included bathroom inspection as a routine procedure in your bath preparation. Zoology has taught me to face cockroaches—with a mug of boiling water and I effectively 'kill and preserve' as taught by my gurus. No more for me the crude operation of squashing the flat body (' which enables it to creep into narrow crevices') with my slipper.

And what of the time you spend on Portia and Shylock and Bassanio? 'All other thoughts fleet to air' when the question paper under 'Paraphrase' asks of you

'If there were dreams to sell
What would you buy?

And you dream dreams—till the examiner gently pulls your paper out of your hand.

NALINI RAI, *II*

Best wishes from four Old Students on the staff of Achuthan Girls' High School, Kozhikode.

I think it was A. A. Milne who once said that the happiest half hours he had ever spent were those just preceding the last minutes of his term in school, when the eager anticipation of a holiday utterly free of care and study crowded out every memory of the workaday world. But as far as I can see, I do not believe I ever welcomed the prospect of a long holiday: everything pleasant and beautiful about school had a way of looming up distressingly large on the occasion of leaving it, and one never could free oneself of the nagging thought that having nothing to do was the dullest occupation in the world. Looking back, then, I can think of no more delightful hours I spent in school than those excitingly swift ones stolen from the day's work, when we crept away from the cool classroom out into the burning sunshine away to the fruit groves to gather quantities of green unripe fruit. Secret expeditions they were, and the drowsy old gardener seldom discovered who despoiled his domain so mercilessly. Yes, there is a magic in playing truant, all the more precious because one loses it with the sense of responsibility that grows with the years.

Now? One no longer plays truant maybe, but one continues to want to give in to reckless impulses, to do wild, gay things and break the monotony of a conventional life.

Does the rash impulsiveness deep down in one never die? I wonder if the very old feel it—those 'old and grey and full of sleep', sitting dreamily by the fire, in the long winter evenings—do they never look into the leaping flames and suddenly see them dance, crackling out a merry invitation to Peter Pan Land? Do they never feel a desire on long dreary days to be out in the warm sunshine and feel the wind play with their hair?

When we are old and drowsy too, tired of life and action, I wonder if we too will be able to look at the gay young children around us unperturbed, and will they turn then to us with impatience in their eyes, wondering if we were even young and impulsive as they.

GITA NAIR, II

BELOVED FURNITURE—O COLLEGE DESK!

The dictionary defines the desk as 'a piece of furniture meant for studying at', but the multifarious uses it is put to by modern students, renders the ancient compiler's idea antediluvian. As the incessant droning of the lecturer's voice lulls you to a semi-slumber with pen in hand, the submerged thoughts looming in the depths of the subconscious mind gradually find form on the wide expanse in front.

A record of varied versions of your name with suppression of alternating parts and represented by initials (as a botanist would aptly define it) is indulged in by most, usually the ones with minimum inspiration. It is also a dangerous pastime fraught with dire consequences, as you might one day in the not so dim and distant future get into hot water for 'damaging and mutilating College property'. So also the habit of jotting down words uppermost in your mind, as 'dibothriocephalus' or 'barassusflabellifer' would quickly disclose your identity.

A more engrossing and safe subject with infinite scope for self-expression is art—especially varied cephalic views of Homosapiens; this is a hot favourite with the non-scientific pursuers of knowledge, as it has generally been acknowledged that drawing innumerable burettes, bones and beetles tends to kill the little aesthetic sense you once might have had. Corpulent Ajantan damsels, and many teachers' profiles stare at you from the corners of the desk. While sinister, mustachioed men, an aerial view of the poddle hair-cut, and distorted visages of young ladies are also present to appeal to the more occidental ones among us. Verbal conversations also figure prominently. As we gaze at each masterpiece, we cannot suppress an irresistible impulse to render a lofty admonition to the fair unknown, while we enthusiastically add our own contributions! And as you leave the beloved desk you can have the satisfaction of having contributed towards enlivening the desperate boredom of future collegians.

VIMALA RAJAGOPAL, *III*

All good wishes—C. H. Rema; Esther Job; Alice Simon; Marina Thomas and Leela Chittayagam.

WE TRAVEL LIGHT

The article below won the Rivett Prize for the best contribution to "College News" '53—54, by an under graduate student.

'Say, boss, just give me ten minutes to pack my tooth brush'. So the secretary often says to her boss in the detective novels I have read. But I had always regarded it as an impossible thing—this business of travelling light—but quite in keeping with the hero who is usually a painter-scientist-historian-pugilist-cum-detective.

Travelling with Mamma can never by any stretch of imagination be called 'light'. Besides the suitcases for clothes etc., she has flasks for hot and cold water and for milk, coffee, basket for fruits, a picnic set (in case we want to go for a picnic, Nalini, she always explains) boxes for the electric iron and kettle; so that when the family goes for a ten day stay at Ooty, the car is almost like Noah's Ark, fully equipped down to the swabs for the tincture iodine, in case we children got hurt.

It was my cousin who turned up one day with just one small suitcase and made a stay of three months, quite comfortably mind you, except for an occasional shopping for a comb and pajamas, that convinced me that 'travelling with a tooth-brush' was possible. Accordingly when I found that Mamma had packed the medicine chest which would have without any strain whatever ministered to every accident under the sun, including fractures, I firmly told her that for this one holiday I was going to do all the packing there was. When we started to Ooty this time, hitched on to the carrier were two suitcases, one for Papa and Mamma, and one for the boys and me. We sprawled in luxurious ease as we drove away.

As the day grew hotter and hottert, the boys who had been trying so loyally to help me keep up my principle of 'travelling light' began glowering at me. Poor boys! We had not a drop of water with us, or fruits for that matter, of which Mamma always had a plentiful supply. We were driving through the drought areas, and I had sneaking visions of Mamma's flasks of ice water. When at last we drove weary and parched into Bangalore we were a sight. Mamma had always insisted on carrying a complete handy toilet set and we always used to drive into Bangalore for lunch, looking quite dandy. Thanks to me we were the grimiest and most unkempt family that day.

This time no rooms were reserved for us—Mamma had obeyed orders and taken no part in the arrangements. When at last we managed to get two small rooms, it was late in the evening. I bribed the boys with a chocolate slab each not to grumble about the mattresses which were painfully bare.

After dinner I breathed freely having quite convinced my family that they could do without the great many things they demanded. From the bathroom Papa called out, 'Nalini, where is the corkscrew to open the bottle of dentine to wash my false teeth with?' There was dead silence on my part. The boys giggled, while Papa thundered.

I have not done any packing after that.

NALINI RAI, *II.*

WAIT AND HOPE

Of all the irksome and irritating occupations in life, waiting is one of the very worst. It sounds very easy to say 'Wait and hope', but oh! how difficult it really is.

Waiting! we wait at the bus-stops for the buses which never seem to come too soon, for the eagerly sought-for letter which we could not find in the pigeon-hole. We wait for the exercise books which we open with beating hearts, to find perhaps a trifling mark blinking at us—or is it we who blink at the marks? But waiting is seldom completely unrewarding. Even if all one's waiting ends in disappointment, there is still the pleasure of complaining about it in heart-broken tones to one's companions. There is a delight in grumbling which is extremely pleasant when a sympathetic listener happens to be at hand. There is an ancient Indian proverb which says: 'The patient will inherit the earth'. I have often quoted it with a virtuous look on my face when I stood waiting to wash my hands after dinner.

But with all its unpleasantness, I could not possibly live without waiting in eager expectation of something. Would you like to know what I'm waiting for now? The answer to a simple question: how did you like reading this?

LAURA SUNDARESAN, *II.*

WORKING MOTHERS IN INDUSTRY

By B. APPASAMY*

Under the rather misleading title of the "Economic and Social Status of Women Workers in India", the Ministry of Labour of the Government of India have produced an interesting report on women working in mines, plantations, and factories. There is next to nothing in the report about white-collar women workers like teachers, doctors, clerks and nurses, of whom there are now about 25,000 in India. It is scarcely possible to compute precisely the number of women in agriculture but it is probably about 28 per cent of the farming population. That is a subject which calls for a separate investigation. The number of women in industries and services on a full-time basis is about 15 lakhs and there can be no doubt that as the industrialisation and commercialisation of India advances, this figure will increase. In the industrialised countries of the West, women form a large percentage of the working force, but a good proportion are young, unmarried girls who give up their jobs when they get married. This problem has been repeated in Japan where girls work in large numbers in the textile industry.

We ought in India to see whether the increasing employment of women in industry and the services is a healthy trend. The working woman who is married cannot escape her domestic responsibilities. Can she do justice to her home as well as to her job? Women workers in India mostly earn less than men. They are employed in the lighter jobs and though the principle of equal pay for equal work is gaining ground, on the whole they form a reservoir of cheap labour. They work 8 to 10 hours a day. Their duties at home take another four or five hours. This means getting up at five in the morning and going to bed about nine at night. Thanks to recent legislation they are exempted from night work and from heavy jobs. They are entitled to maternity benefits if they become pregnant—but many of them do not get it. All factories which employ more than 50 women are supposed to provide creches for small children, but here again the law has still to be fully implemented. It is important to note that 50-80 per cent of the women in industry are married and another twenty per cent widows. In a plantation or a coal mine the married woman supplements her husband's wages with her own. (There are, however, a growing number of industries in South India, like the match industry, the cashew-nut industry etc. which employ unmarried girls.) What happens to the children of the employed mother? The report quotes a recent enquiry in the Jute industry which found that out of 97 young children of 276 working mothers, 47 were in creches, 44 looked after by other members of the family and the other six left to their own devices. Doping with opium is sometimes practised with babies.

On the credit side, it has been shown that the work of the married woman has enabled her to feed her family better and given her a sense of equality and importance in the family and in society. Widows, who used to be objects of charity, can now support themselves and their children. In post-independence India, the right of women to work in any job has been conceded, and this has been accompanied by a drive to educate our women. But as the pendulum swings towards the kind of emancipation for which Mary Wollstonecraft Godwin and others fought hundred and fifty years ago, there is an increasing realisation in the country that the employment of women outside the home carries its own dangers to society, unless it is properly regulated.

Writing in the international Labour Review, Madame Maria Baers, the Secretary of the Belgian Senate and an expert on this problem, points out that the lives of European mothers who have to combine household tasks and the bringing up of children with paid employment are little short of "economic slavery". She goes on to cast doubt on the

*See Editorial

value of the creches and day nurseries that are supposed to care for the children. They spread infectious illness and for every hundred mothers employed 50 social workers are required to look after the children properly.

The separation of children from their mothers is a major cause of child delinquency. A basic need of the child is security. J. Bowlby, the English sociologist has pointed out that even when a child is ill-fed and ill-treated, he is still secure in the knowledge that he is of value to someone if his parents pay him some attention. That is why children thrive better in bad homes than in good institutions and are "unreasonably" attached to them. Madame Baer says that many working women could spare themselves the necessity to go out to work if they were better trained in domestic economy, and she points out that nearly half of the money earned by working women has to be spent in the expense of transport, meals bought outside, extra clothes and so on. She suggests that since poverty is the chief reason driving mothers to work, family allowances should be paid to men with children. Other methods of employing women without disturbing the family are part-time work and re-employment opportunities for women over 40 years i.e. when their children have grown up.

It is fairly clear that, while the right of women to work anywhere they like is not contested, we should strive in India to keep the family from disruption by striving to limit the employment of mothers with babies or small children. Girls can work till they get married and married women can work outside the home after their children are well past infancy. Men workers with children should be given family allowances. This is an extra expense for the employer but so are the present maternity benefits and creches which are now provided. If juvenile crime increased tremendously after the last war in the west, it was largely because the mothers went in millions into the factories leaving their children to their own devices. We can see for ourselves that this trend is being repeated in our large cities. Here is a problem for Indian women sociologists and economists to study and consider.

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Dear Alumnae,

This is your school, founded and maintained by you. In the press of business and the bustle of many activities, we hope you will not forget YOUR SCHOOL, but do what you can to help it to stand on its feet financially.

Remember, every little helps.

Any contributions you care to send for the support of the school will be gratefully received by me at Women's Christian College.

MARY MASILLAMANI
Manager and Correspondent

OUR ALMA MATER

(*Tune*: "*Finlandia*"—*Church Hymnary No.* 556)

From this our land and far across the ocean
Thy daughters' voices rise in praise to thee,
Our College fair, our faithful Alma Mater!
Oh, may we love thee more, from year to year!
God be with thee, our College, God protect thee,
His light shine on thee—this our fervent prayer.

Beneath thy trees and columns tall, majestic,
Wisdom and knowledge thou dost give to all.
Leaving thy portals, we go forth desiring,
Lighted, to lighten; bravely on we go.
God be with thee, our College, God protect thee,
His light shine through thee—now and evermore!

NOTE

The words for this new Women's Christian College Song were composed this July by a committee of College Chorus members, representing each of the four years. The music to which it is set is Sibelius' well-known Tone-poem, "Finlandia." It is being sung for the first time on College Day 1954, and we hope it will find a place in your hearts.

OPENING OF THE HOME SCIENCE BLOCK

The new Nutrition Building was opened by the Honourable Rajkumari Amrit Kaur (Union Health Minister), on Thursday, 5th August 1954.

The ceremony began in the Assembly Hall amidst a large gathering of educationists and others. After the singing of the Hymn 'Praise to the Lord, the Almighty', Anna Vareed, President of the College Union, welcomed the distinguished visitors. This was followed by the statement of the Principal who said:

'RAJKUMARI, DR. LAKSHMANASWAMY AND FRIENDS—

The occasion of the opening of our new Home Science Block marks a rapid but natural growth from very small beginnings. It was in 1942 under our present Vice-Chancellor that the first degree course in Home Science to be offered in any Indian University was opened in our University of Madras, by the Women's Christian College and Queen Mary's College. Of all the subjects included in the course it was the subject of Nutrition which was wholly new and exciting, and almost immediately we found ourselves drawn into research on problems raised by the common diets of our part of India, and into extension work in the cause of better nutrition. These developments in twelve years have been rapid and extensive, and have included the development of a rat colony for experiments on rice diets, studies of the metabolism of South Indian women, or normal heights and weights of College students and school children in Madras, analyses of common edible weeds as sources of minerals and of common food preparations used in homes and hotels, and studies of the effects of various methods of cooking on vitamin losses in common South Indian vegetables. The Extension work which began with extension courses for women responsible for feeding children in boarding schools now takes our indefatigable extension worker, Mrs. Philip, travelling widely to villages and towns throughout S. India, at the request of Government, of Missions, of Women's Welfare groups and others, to give demonstrations and counsel on planning and preparing balanced diets with local foods available.

All this work has been carried on in converted store-rooms and in laboratories planned for other purposes. Now in 1954, with the opening of this new Home Science Block, we rejoice in teaching and research laboratories designed especially for nutrition work. The architect, Mr. Bennett Pithavadian of Prynne, Abbot and Davis, has spared no pains in working out details so as to make the laboratories both serviceable and attractive while keeping within the limited budget. We thank him and his firm most warmly for devotion and careful attention given at every stage. We thank, too, the Building Contractors, M. Arunachalam and Co., the Sanitary Engineers, Richardson and Cruddas, and the Electrical Engineers, Kausee Bros. And behind it all, with her enthusiasm and perseverance, putting her whole heart and soul into the planning of it, has been Miss Dorothy Pearson, Professor of Nutrition.

When we began to plan this building we greatly wanted to provide for the future as well as for the immediate present. South India urgently needs trained dietitians for large scale institutional management,—for industry, for hospitals, for institutions. We had hoped for a third storey to provide laboratories for such training and a practice Cafeteria, and it is a sad disappointment that our funds could not be stretched so far, for it would take Rs. 50,000 more. We commend the need and its importance to Government, to the University and to all friends who have a concern for more adequate supervision of diets in hospitals and other institutions.

The funds at hand have come from three sources, initially from a fund collected in the early 20's by University and Church women in America to help seven young Christian Colleges for women in Asia. To these donors of long ago, living and dead, we pay our tribute and our thanks. The second source is our Government which has promised Rs. 75,000 of which we anticipate Rs. 30,000 in the near future. We know our Government is hard pressed for funds and we are very grateful. The third source is our friends, and well-wishers, many of whom are here today. The best thanks we can offer to you all and to our Government will be the quality of the work done in these laboratories and the spirit of the graduates who go out from here to serve our country in the field of nutrition.'

THE VICE-CHANCELLOR OF THE UNIVERSITY, DR. A. LAKSHMANASWAMI MUDALIAR: who acted as Chairman of the function then complimented the College on its excellent work in nutrition which, he said was one of the most important things in respect of the health and welfare of people. He had always held the view that a diploma course in nutrition could not be introduced without properly trained personnel. He was thankful to the College which was now in a position to offer such assistance as might be needed to train students to carry on the good work not only for the people of South India, but for the whole of India. The building put up showed the enormous interest and trouble the College authorities had taken.

He expressed his sincere appreciation of the great work Missionary agencies had done in this part of South India, both in the educational and medical fields.

Of the 63 Colleges affiliated to the University of Madras, ten were maintained by the Government, 26 by Missionary institutions, and 27 by other private bodies. He was happy that in South India not one comment was heard against the great Missionary institutions. He pointed out that in the sphere of women's education, the Missionary agencies had played a greater part. Of the 18 women's colleges in the University, only one was maintained by the State, 4 by private bodies, and 13 Colleges run by Missionary agencies *(applause)*.

" If women's education has spread in South India more than in any other part, it is entirely due to the great work of the Missionary agencies " he said.

It was his experience, as Vice-Chancellor for 12 years, that there was, in Women's Colleges " a greater sense of comradeship, a greater spirit of homogeneity and a sense of responsibility " than in men's colleges.

He was happy that the Women's Christian College had taken one more step in its endeavour. He thanked the Health Minister for her recent pronouncement that standards in education should not, in any case, be lowered.

Rajkumari Amrit Kaur said health and education were closely linked. 'While I am serving in the Ministry of Health, it does not mean that I am not interested in education. I am most happy when I am with the youth of this great land of ours, and when I have the privilege of coming and sharing in the joy created by every little step that we take in the advancement of education.

'I am glad that Madras which has taken so many steps, so many first steps and set an example to other States in the country, has also taken this very vital step of giving this Diploma in Home Science.

'I heard the other day, with very great perturbation—I will send my protest if the information I received is correct—that the Central Government has said that they will not give scholarships for students going abroad to study Home Science. I think this is a retrograde step.

'I do not understand why, when every State is wanting to start diploma courses in Home Science, and when lack of personnel is one of the obstacles in the way of developing this course, students—most of whom would be girls—should not be allowed to have the scholarships to go abroad. I do hope that the great University of Madras will protest against this, and fight with me to get those scholarships restored.

'We can wait for years, but we can never allow the lowering of standards. To think of medical aid and relief to the suffering millions in our rural areas being given on a third or fourth rate basis will never be tolerated by me at any rate.

'I am sure that the Vice-Chancellors of all the Universities in India will firmly stand for maintaining standards.'

Referring to the importance of dietetics, she said no one knew more than she did how greatly they needed this science, and it was for that reason that some years ago she started a course of dietetics in the All-India Institute of Hygiene and Public Health.

Underlining the importance of nutritive food for students from the days they start going to school, she said she was horrified to find that in one University many students suffered from malnutrition or under-nutrition. 'I wish sometimes that the health of the students of Universities should be in the hands of the Health Ministry. Mine has been a lone voice calling for nutritive foods for all boys and girls from the school to the University stage.

'I have pleaded that there should be no college where there is no nutrition expert, and no hospital where there is no dietetician to help and guide them.'

The Health Minister agreed that food habits were difficult to change, and recalled what Gandhiji once told her in reply to her request that he should tell her what he found to be the most difficult of the conquests defined in the Ashram Code, namely 'you will probably be amused when I say that the conquest of the palate is the hardest.'

She said she was happy to see that the College was taking a further step of what 'I consider to be part and parcel of my domain—training the girls in Home Science and Nutrition.' She suggested that those trained in dietetics should experiment with children, and see if they could not change their food habits.

'I am glad that the Vice-Chancellor has paid a tribute to the good work done by our Missionary friends in India and I am glad to hear that in the South there is no prejudice against them.' She recalled her recent visit to Madhya Pradesh where she went to a colony of sufferers from leprosy. She found one American sister there, working alone and single handed for the past eight years, with the help and assistance of those who had been cured of the disease, or whose leprosy had been arrested at a particular stage. She was a nurse, and could get voluntary aid from some doctors from the neighbouring area to do the medical part of the work but the rest of the work, in respect of about 200 patients was done by her. She wanted more help. When I asked her she said: 'I should like to stay here if you will let me. I would like to have a helper. I have tried to get the assistance of an Indian sister, but nobody is forthcoming. I would like to get another Sister from the States, but will she get the necessary visa?' This question, the Health Minister said, hurt her most, as also the Governor of the State.

'Here was a woman devoted to her work, which I confess I could not do, and which, I am sure, none present here could do. Yet there are slogans asking the Missionaries to quit India.

'I am happy, however, that these slogans are confined to the very few people, and I am sure the heart of India is sound, I know that the work the Missionaries do in the medical and educational fields and in other fields in the rural areas is beloved by the people. It is the people's voice that counts. The Central Government and our beloved Prime Minister has stated on more than one occasion that Christianity is part and parcel of the background of this land, as any other religion. We ask nothing from them except their loyalty and we know we have it. We know they will help us to raise our standards in integrity and service.

'In a world where there is so many tensions and suspensions and mistrust, dividing man from man, at any rate health cements the bonds of international friendship, without which the world will be lost.'

She congratulated the College on its venture and wished their efforts all success.

The Health Minister, accompanied by Dr. Sir A. Lakshmanaswami Mudaliar, Miss Mason, Principal, Miss Dorothy M. Pearson and others walked to the new building and opened the new building by cutting the tape.

The Rev. T. R. Foulger, chairman of the College Council, said the prayer of dedication and the girls in chorus sang the National Anthem.

The Health Minister was then taken round the different sections of the building where some of the trainees were at work.

[*The above speeches are reproduced by kind permission of the Mail.*—ED.]

THE PRINCIPAL GREETS THE CHIEF GUEST, WATCHED BY MISS PEARSON

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RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR CUTS THE TAPE TO OPEN THE NEW BLOCK

THE HOME SCIENCE STUDENTS WITH RAJKUMARI AMRIT KAUR, MISS MASON, MRS. PHILIP AND MISS PEARSON IN ONE OF THE NEW CLASSROOMS

The Rev. T. R. Foulger's.

Prayer of Dedication.

at the opening of the Home Science Block.

O God, our Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, we dedicate this building to Thee.

We thank Thee for the vision of colleagues, the generosity of friends and the patient skill of many workers which have made it possible.

We pray that all who teach and all who learn in this place may have a true love of knowledge and a true love of their country and people.

May many who work here have the joy of new discovery.

May all receive such light from Thee that their own homes and many homes in our land may be enriched with new treasures of health and happiness, beauty and goodness for Christ's sake.

LITERARY QUIZ

Can you identify these questions?

(i) 'The still, sad music of humanity'
(ii) 'A green thought in a green shade'
(iii) 'The feast of reason and the flow of soul'
(iv) 'Tread softly for you tread on my dreams'
(v) 'The priest promotes war, and the soldier peace'

(Sorry, no prizes; knowledge, like virtue, must be its own reward!)

If you do, you rate high in IQ and as a potential customer of ours! We invite you to inspect our stock, small but selective over a wide range, and to look over new books as they come. Remember, there is no ban on browsing.

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Compliments to all our classmates from Sakunthala Raju and Alhadini Raju, graduates of 1951. now in the Revenue Secretariat, Fort St. George, Madras.

Hearty Greetings, 1929!
K. Chandravathy, Sosa Zachariah (Mrs K. C. Jacob.)

Compliments of Ivy Thomas.

Best Wishes from L. Arumainayagam, Principal, Sarah Tucker College.

With the compliments of a Friend.

Best wishes of the Vellore Club.

Best wishes from Mrs E. P. Chandran; Mrs O. A. George; Mrs M. Sekharan; Miss V. Parukutty and Miss E. Chittayagam.

Best wishes from Mother and Daughter:
Mrs Grace Aaron (née Azariah) and Sarojini.

With best compliments of Mrs Annamma John (B.A. '18-'22) Miss Annamma John (B.A. '51-'53) and Mrs Mariamma Jacob (B.Sc. '48-'52) of the Alwaye Club.

" How strange if we are lamps, that we should shrink from Service in dark places:

Mary Chinniah

Greetings to the Alumnæ Association from Ioapam Mathioparanam (Arumainayagam)

Our Lamps of Friendship—God help us that no lamp goes out because we let it rest. With all good wishes Rasamanie Samuel.

Best Compliments from the Guntur Club

With the Compliments of a Friend

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FROM OUR AMERICAN MAIL-BAG

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April 9, '54.

MY DEAR EDITOR,

I was so happy to receive your letter. Believe me, it is such a pleasure for me to contribute to the '*Sun Flower*'. By asking me to write this letter, you are actually giving me a chance to speak to all my old class mates and professors and I am very grateful.

We came to the United States about seven months ago and since then we have been enjoying every minute of our stay here. My husband has a teaching fellowship in the University of Washington, Seattle, where he is at the same time working for his doctorate. I am an exchange teacher here in the Sunnyside public school system. The University is only four hours' drive from Sunnyside and so I can go over very often to Seattle during my week-ends and holidays. Then we cook curry and rice and have lots of fun keeping house.

We had to leave our daughter Bina with my parents when we left India. It was a heart breaking experience but as we did not know what lay ahead of us our parents advised us to leave her behind till we had a home ready and were sure that she would be comfortable here. Though that seemed to be the most sensible thing to do it was the hardest decision that I ever made in my life. From the time we knew that we were among friends and that it would be possible for us to have a home here we have been making arrangements to bring her over. It looks as though our plans are going to materialise as my father is hoping to fly from India next month with Bina. At present my mother and grandmother are looking after her and she looks very happy and chubby in the snaps they send me.

I enjoy my work here in Sunnyside very much. It wasn't long before I realised that I had to learn quite a few things before I could be called an efficient teacher in the U.S. I had to work very hard, but as the other teachers were always willing to help me I was not discouraged. In my school system there are exchange teachers from England, Latvia, Denmark and Austria and we all have a fine time. This program is sponsored by the local Rotary Club to promote International understanding. The people of Sunnyside treat us 'exchange teachers' as special guests. They show their hospitality in many ways. We have free passes to all the prominent places of entertainment and we automatically become temporary members of most of the clubs here. We are invited to homes and we tour the country addressing various institutions and organisations. While we are away speaking we have substitute teachers working for us who are paid by the School district. Needles to say, I find my job extremely interesting.

Now it is spring and it is quite a thrill to see the green leaves shooting up after the long bleak winter. Watching the seasons change, I think, is one of the most interesting occupations in the world. I am sure glad that spring is here because I had quite a time wading in the snow, which as you know, is not exactly a pleasant experience as long as one is dressed in a saree.

As I happen to be the first visitor from India to Sunnyside there is a tendency for the 'Sunnysiders' to look upon me as a novelty. I cannot tell you how many times I have demonstrated how to put on the saree, how many times I have taken down my hair. My audience is both pleased and surprised when I tell them about W.C.C. and how I had a gracious American lady for my principal. Many a time I have been thankful for my training in W.C.C. and indeed it has stood me in good stead. The people show a great deal of friendly curiosity and undoubtedly they evince a great admiration for our young Republic and its makers. I get very interesting questions on various topics like snake-charmers, sacred cows, Pundit Nehru, the caste system, the rope trick, the influence of communism in India and, last but not the least, Mahatma Gandhi. To me the Americans appear to be unbelievably informal and generous to a fault. I think that if there is any country in the world where a foreigner can not feel like a foreigner that is the United States. I only wish that we people in India would show the same hospitality and friendliness to them while they are within our gates.

Yours very sincerely,
RACHEL G. THOMAS (NÉE SIMON).

[Rachel Thomas, 1948—'50 B. A. Philosophy, is now an instructor in the Sunny Side Public School System, Washington.]

DICKINSON HOUSE,
SOUTH HADLEY,
Mass., U.S.A.

DEAR OLD STUDENTS AND FRIENDS,

When the Editor wrote and asked me to send a letter giving some account of my activities and in particular of my research work, I agreed, as you will see, in spite of misgivings as to how interesting that subject can be to those who do not have an obsession on the subject of Ferns.

In my later years I have noticed that it is a very happy thing to acquire early in life a strong objective interest. I assume that there will always be strong personal interests. Unfortunately the happier they are the greater the possibility for sorrow, as by their very nature they are subject to interruption or termination. A strong objective interest can stay with one as long as perceptive faculties remain and the mind can function. However, no one embarks on a line of work in youth with this in mind, but one may happily discover later in life that this has happened. If one is fortunate to have a strong objective interest which can be combined with personal relations, as in teaching, there is an ideal combination.

My interest in Ferns is not that of one who is ambitious to acquire herbarium specimens; it is related to the life history and structure of the fern. In particular I have devoted myself to the gametophyte (prothallus) stage. I shall have to interpolate a paragraph on the life history of the Fern which former Botany students may skip.

The leafy fern plant is a 'sporophyte' (spore-bearing plant) with spores borne in spore-cases arranged in 'fruit-dots' usually on the under side of the leaf. The spore itself is microscopic, a one-celled structure for propagation, much simpler than a seed. On germination it develops into a green 'gametophyte (prothallus), which is microscopic at first but eventually becomes a flat heart-shaped body seldom more than half an inch wide; in comparison with the leafy plant it is of simple organization. In course of time the prothallus bears sperms which will swim vigorously in water if it is present — a drop of dew is like a pond in relation to their size. If its career is to be successful the sperm must reach an egg, borne in the same or another thallus at the base of a narrow canal. If the egg is fertilized it enlarges and grows into a sporophyte, but the gametophyte dies before the sporophyte has developed more than three or four leaves.

With this concentrated introduction to Ferns, I hope that the non-botanist will sail briskly through all that follows, with tolerance if not interest. Occasionally one can collect gametophytes growing wild in the vicinity of leafy fern plants, but it is almost impossible to get early stages on account of their minute size and delicacy. The only satisfactory way to study the gametophyte is to collect the spores and make cultures. This is just troublesome enough so that many botanists avoid it, and limit themselves to the study of the leafy plant which, it may be added, presents greater range of structure and variation. A complete study of any fern involves both stages.

The fern spores can be germinated on distilled water or on porous clay crock to obtain early stages, or on agar or on peat for later stages. Small glass dishes 2–4 inches in diameter are convenient, but they require good covers. The warm moist conditions suitable for fern prothalli are also ideal conditions for fungi and some algae — the great enemies of the young prothalli. Fungi present the greater menace and the first problem is to prevent infection, the next to rescue the prothalli if they are attacked. The spores usually germinate in 7–15 days, but certain species are slow and may not germinate for 4–8 months. The prothalli may complete their life cycle and live only a few months; many of them reach maturity in 6–10 weeks, but some ferns require 8–20 months. If fertilization is prevented some prothalli will live for many years; I have a culture of a Filmy Fern in the prothallus stage which I brought from Java in 1937 on the return from my last visit to India.

The special problem on which I began work years ago, is to determine the extent of the correlation between the stage of evolution of the gametophyte and that of the sporophyte in the various families of Ferns. It seems a more extensive problem but also a most interesting one now than when I began, because more ferns are known and more is known about ferns. Classification has developed with a greater appreciation of what were once considered minor groups. At one time only 7 families of Ferns were recognized. At the point at which I took up my work the number had grown to 12—not so much from discovery of new ferns as from a more discriminating

recognition of differences. Pteridologists have been very active in the last 20 years with the result that even a conservative Systematist may recognize 19–20 families, while the most expansive run to 40. At present I am conservative enough to limit myself to 21–22, but I may convert myself to a larger number as the work progresses.

The great majority of the 9,000 species of Ferns live in the tropics and subtropics, chiefly on mountainous islands where there are misty slopes favourable for the growth of ferns. Jamaica is not nearly as large as Massachusetts but has 8-10 times as many species of ferns. That is why I am planning a second trip to Jamaica this coming summer, even though Massachusetts is good for ferns, considering its latitude. I can send spores by air mail to Massachusetts where they can be planted within a few days after collection. Some spores are very short-lived and must be planted within a few days, but others will live for some years.

It has been my good fortune to have a former student, Dr. Lenette Rogers Atkinson, who is also a Pteridologist, living only 10 miles away. Her husband is Professor of French at Amherst College, and while not a botanist I have heard him use such names as *Elaphoglossum* and *Didymochlaena* with facility if not with understanding. Now that the two daughters are through college, Mrs. Atkinson devotes all her available time to work on ferns. We have written 7 papers together and have many more in various stages of preparation. We divide the work so that we each have our favourite parts. (I am not sure how good this is for our characters, but it is better for the papers.) At present we have about 175 cultures, but after I have sent my collections of spores from Jamaica to Mrs. Atkinson there will probably be twice as many, and all tables and flat surfaces will be loaded with dishes of fern prothalli.

We have been very fortunate in the co-operation of many botanists who have sent spores by air mail from various good collecting grounds—Puerto Rico, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Okinawa, Singapore, Australia, and most recently, Western Samoa. Many of our friendly collectors we know only by correspondence. Our next need is for some one to collect in northern New Zealand. Ferns are not necessarily important in our work because they are rare, but important ferns may be rare and that is the case with *Loxsoma cunninghamii* of Northern New Zealand.

Needless to say, we are having a very interesting time, and are happy to be working for the extension of knowledge and not the extension of power. Sometimes we find evidence which assists in difficult problems of classification; we feel that this is the case in our work on *Cheiropleuria* from Okinawa. Sometimes a genus like *Elaphoglossum* puzzles us with distinctive and interesting characters unlike those of any known group; this emphasizes the need for more extensive work on fern gametophytes. Sometimes a genus, such as *Didymochlaena*, seems commonplace with no special characters to suggest relationships, in fact it seems rather dull, but we finish the paper and drawings for publication hoping that to someone who has a different approach it will not seem dull, and the knowledge of its structure can be used. In the meantime we follow up other groups hoping that they will reveal to us their relationships, and that we shall have the discernment to perceive the truths which have been hidden.

A. G. STOKEY.

[*Dr. Alma G. Stokey was Professor of Botany at W.C.C. from* 1929—'31 *and* '36—'37. *She is now going to Jamaica to collect ferns for her research work. Her papers appear in* "*Phyto-Morphology*".]

269, INTERNATIONAL HOUSE,
500, RIVERSIDE DRIVE,
NEW YORK 27,
U.S.A.

DEAR EDITOR,

Thank you for your letter and the honour of being asked to write for the *Sunflower*.

I was going to write this to you about two weeks ago, when I got Miss Dorothy Williams' letter from Tennessee, saying that Ratna Arulanantham was going to give a paper at a big National Conference of the Federation of American Societies for Experimental Biology, which was going to be held at Atlantic City, New Jersey, not far from New York, from the 12th—16th April. So I thought I'd wait till after the conference when Miss Williams, Ratna and I could have a small W.C.C. re-union there! We were very proud of Ratna as she calmly and composedly gave her paper before all those most eminent nutrition scientists, and I'm sure you will be too, to hear of this great honour. you will be glad to hear that there were several papers given by other Indian men and women studying or working in other parts of U.S.A., even though this was not an International convention. I could hardly imagine that it was nearly 4 years since I last saw Ratna, as we waved farewell to her at the Madras Central Station, and that it was 5 years since I saw Miss Williams—little imagining that I was going to see them again here in the U.S.A.! and so the moral of the story is that if you hope hard enough anything can happen!

I am enjoying my work here very much, and life is so full of so many wonderful experiences that one year seems far too short to enjoy them adequately. I have been living at International House since I came here in September, and attending Teachers' College, Columbia University, which is very fortunately just two blocks away from here. The beautiful Riverside Church and Union Theological Seminary are also opposite International House. Teachers' College, is such a big place, and the system of education so different from what we have been used to, that it quite overwhelmed me for a while. The idea of being able to choose your own courses in almost *any* imaginable field (of course, I stuck to my major interest—Nutrition!) and the system of 'points' made in each of these courses, the writing of 'Term Papers' instead of term exams, and objective—type of exams, if any, were all new and strange; but what was most 'odd' for me was the idea of classes going on from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every day, so that one just went to 'school' (not college) whenever one's selected courses happened to be scheduled. It turned out that since many of my classmates were dietitians or other part-time employed people, most of my classes were between 5 and 9 p.m.—just when, at home, we'd be forgetting books and thinking of games and other lighter pastimes!

International House is truly a fascinating place to live in. There are about 580 men and women of about 64 different nations, all living in peace and harmony as if there never was a war on. There are so many wonderful opportunities of getting first-hand information about customs and costumes, politics and religions, economics and sociology, history and geography of any of these countries, and though heated arguments and lively discussions ensue, everyone always seem to part as friends! There's always a very varied programme of social and educational activity going on here in the House, and we've had the good fortune of hearing and talking to eminent people like Madame Pandit, Mr. Krishna Menon, W. H. Auden, the famous poet and playwright, Dr. Abraham Stone, Dr. Frank Graham, and Mr. Chester Bowles, among many others. Just two weeks ago we had our Spring Folk-Dancing Festival in which folk dances of many lands are done, and everyone is welcome to join in, all very informally arranged on the floor of the Auditorium.

Today is Easter Sunday, and I've just come back from a beautiful service at the Riverside Church. The 72-bell carillon never sounded more beautiful, I thought, than today—may be it's the beautiful sunny Spring day that did it! It's been raining and very foggy all this week, and no one expected it to clear up so beautifully today. I'm sure half the city of Manhattan must have turned out along Fifth Avenue to see the famous Easter Parade! These parades are really a treat for youngsters—and not-so-youngsters too! I shan't forget the giant balloons and floral floats of Macy's Christmas Parade and the St. Patrick's Day Parade.

There are a great many things to do and see in New York but I do realise that New York is not the U.S.A. and am hoping very much to be able to see some of the other states too before I return home. I am now doing some field work in the Dietary departments of two of the well-known hospitals here and am enjoying it very much, but I am very keen to visit other hospitals in smaller and less 'urbanized' states of the country too, and the famous Mayo Clinic in Rochester.

One of the things that have impressed me very profoundly about the people of this country is their attitude towards work—the concept that 'every honest profession is an honourable calling' is so evident that it's not hard to see what helped make this country the world power she is to-day. This is something that we in the East have got to learn—and learn soon. The simplicity of the most eminent and lack of pomp and show, and of that aura of importance that seems to accompany most of our people of any standing, are truly commendable. Perhaps we are learning this lesson, but very slowly it seems to me.

I really had better stop now or I could go on and on—there's so much to tell! I shall be very glad and grateful to hear any news of College, and of the people I know.

Do convey my warmest regards to Miss Mason, Miss Pearson and all the staff. Hardly a day passes without my having occasion to think with pleasure and gratitude of my college days—no kidding (to use an American expression!), I really mean it. I always remember Miss McDougall's words when she spoke at Assembly, that more than just passing exams it was the character-building experiences in work and play that were important at College.

Wishing W.C.C. every success in all her endeavours.

Yours sincerely,
HILMI PHILIPS.
[*B. Sc. Home Science* 1947–'51].

POUGHKEEPSIE, NEW YORK,
March 24, 1954

Dear Friends,

I write this in good faith, hoping nothing will be misunderstood.

I bet you expect a glowing report; well, if it doesn't glow to the height of expectation, never mind. Just strike a match, and it will glow! I want you, if you will, to imagine that you have just been with me in the United States.

It is a pleasure indeed to be able to come to the States for graduate study in Science. The youth of this country have great opportunities. The spirit of adventure that belongs to youth can be seen among the College students. They are seekers of liberty, truth and justice. People in this country have new values for freedom and life.

I cannot help recalling my trials of fortitude and patience in India. So, for *me*, it has been a deeply interesting experience to have come to the States and to study at Vassar College, Poughkeepsie, New York. Having had a different tradition of education and a different environment in India, which is rigid and completely standardized, Vassar College seemed like a 'new heaven and a new earth'.

Vassar provided facilities for my graduate study. In the first year the graduate students follow a program of required courses, and in the second year concentrate on research work. The first year's training provides the basic knowledge and training required to know what it is to write a thesis. Graduate-student assistantships give experience in teaching the elementary course in Physiology.

Last summer I had a wonderful time taking a summer course in Physiology at Marine Biological Laboratory, Woods Hole, Massachusetts. I was convinced that graduate education is useful and almost essential. There, the work gave an insight into research work and a strong feeling that Indian Universities have to improve and extend their graduate work. I was impressed by the distinguished faculty and the complete library of all the Journals of the world.

I have had some most exciting and gay times. Our grand trip to Niagara Falls, Thousand Islands and Montreal would certainly make you envy me. A jolly trip to Washington, D. C., the beautiful and clean Capitol City of the States, was impressive and expository. I have been to New York City several times. What do you want to know about this great city of the world? Oh, gee! The boat trip round Manhattan Island is your best bet. The American Museum of Natural History is wonderful. Oh! I forget to mention the Empire State Building on 34th Street: it has 102 storeys and is the highest structure in the world. A visit to Boston and Cambridge is worth anybody's time and money. They are famous for great universities and colleges. It gave me the greatest pleasure to find my way around in Boston and New York City. People on the street remarked: "That Indian follows a map!"

Now you are me as well as you — come to the States and know the Value of Life! There is no need to talk with watering mouths about the great variety of ice creams, cakes and pies! Go out marketing. You'll see barrels of foods that come in cans, and neat packages. Oh, you never will believe your eyes! A variety of frozen foods, cake mixtures, pre-cooked meat of all kinds, turkey and chicken — all dressed and frozen—there to buy. What more do you want to know? Pre-cooked rolls, buns, and biscuits in neat packages take five seconds

to bake : such conveniences as frozen vegetables in neat little packages which you unwrap and drop into boiling water : no pods of peas to shell. The canned goods and other stuffs in neat cellophane packages make cooking easy and enjoyable. If you see the cars in the streets, you think, 'You can get two for a cent'. No — it is not that easy. People are ambitious and work hard to make life comfortable and pleasant. Before I came, I thought that tasty food was absolutely unavailable ; I was expecting to succumb to the cold the minute I saw a cold winter. Well, it is all quite different from my mistaken ideas — and to the good. 'A little leaven leaveneth the whole lump but too much yeast turns the dough sour'. It is disturbing if you drink in too much of Western civilization, but India has much to learn from the States.

I am still more gratified and also delighted to inform you that if you come to the States, you almost fall into the welcoming arms of some good friends who make life so pleasant and easy during your stay in this country.

My report will be incomplete if I don't mention some episodes I encountered. All remark about the delicate and graceful sari. Many ask me to show how I put it on. Our National costume has aroused the curiosity of the Children. In a drug store, the youngsters looked at me and said, 'Dad, this lady has come out in her night gown!' An old lady stopped me on the street and asked, 'Why all this drapery?' A perfectly strange person pulled my hair from behind and said, 'Lovely hair'. A girl of five years asked me whether I am an American Indian. In Cape Cod an old man asked why I don't have two braids (American-Indians have two plaited braids). A lady at the railway station asked me if I am a gypsy. Never mind! The sari is a great help and not a hindrance.

I can go on and on talking about the cold snow-falls, the lovely spring and the autumn foliage, but I'll leave out some secrets.

Hurry up, save money! Don't stay home during summer. Like the American girls do, earn — being baby sitters, restaurant waitresses, research assistants, hospital technicians and camp counsellors.

Hope to meet you soon.

Sincerely yours,

VICTORIA THEOPHILUS,

[*Miss Theophilus did her Inter in W.C.C., 1944–'46, and her B.Sc. in Christian College, Tambaram. From '48–'52 she was on the staff of Vellore Medical College, and is now at Vassar College doing her M.Sc.*]

ZONTA INTERNATIONAL HOUSE,
1875 SUMMIT STREET,
COLUMBUS 1, OHIO, U.S.A.
March 28th, 1954.

DEAR EDITOR,

Just as I started writing this I remembered that our students would be appearing for their final exam. I send them my best wishes.

It is with mingled feelings of joy and pride that I write these few lines for the *Sunflower*, about my first experiences in the New World. It is very nice of Miss Mason and the rest of you to have thought of me as one who is still connected with the college. I always cherish pleasant memories of my association with the College.

As many of my friends are aware, I am here on an International Fellowship awarded by the American Association of University Women, for the year 1953–'54. I came here in September last and landed at New York. The first glimpse of the city with its mighty sky-scrapers and the Statue of Liberty welcoming every visitor, both great and small, into this wonderful country, was a thrilling experience. After staying in New York for a few days I came to Columbus, Ohio, to join the Ohio State University to continue my studies in Physics. I am doing research in infrared spectroscopy for studying the structure of Molecules.

It is surprising that there are very few women doing graduate work in a subject like Physics. Hence almost every person I have met expressed great surprise that 'a woman, and that too an Indian woman' should study Physics.

I am staying in an International House with sixteen students from different countries of the world. It is not a huge affair like those in Chicago, Berkeley and New York. It is, on the contrary warm and homely and it is run by a group of women belonging to what is called the Zonta Club, a feminine counterpart of the Rotary International. One can call it a miniature United Nations and we who live there are the unofficial ambassadors of goodwill. We who have come here from different parts of the world with different traditional and cultural backgrounds live like a happy family. My room-mate is a German and just as I am writing this, she is trying on one of my pretty sarees.

It is gratifying to note that people here are in general very friendly and helpful. On the

day I arrived here, as one might well imagine, I was standing on the station platform completely lost for a few minutes, when a very friendly lady followed by a smart Indian girl (who was equally strange to me) came to me and gave me the warmest welcome to Columbus. I am not the only one who is thus welcomed. Hundreds of foreign students are welcomed every year by the American students belonging to the Y's, and the members of the Embassy Club, and Committee on Foreign Students.

Though at first I, along with the others, had certain adjustment problems, now I can call myself an old-timer. Yet I have not adjusted myself to one thing—i.e., the number of things that I have to carry when I go from one place to another, I always forget a pair of gloves, my handbag, or sometimes even the coat without which one cannot go very far, for once you open the heavy doors (which I can never learn to open without the help of a gallant) the cold breeze, passing through your sinews would soon remind you. I am happy that those cold winter days are gone and spring weather is just around the corner.

As the space allotted to me in the *Sunflower* is limited I cannot write all that I want to. Yet let me put in these few words before concluding.

It is surprising to learn the views that foreigners have of us and our country. Sometimes the ignorance prevailing even among the educated Americans regarding India is colossal, and often laughable. It may be true with the general populace of India, but the educated Indian, I feel, is apparently better informed. It may be due to the efficient publicity of the United States and other countries of the Western World. They have learnt many things about our countries from us students, so one can realise the importance of these contacts which foster international understanding and amity. Let us hope that in the not so distant future we also will be in a position to support international students in our country, and enable many of our fellowmen to come into contact with the peoples of the world.

With kindest regards to you all, dear friends,

Very sincerely yours,

K. Lakshmi.

[*Lecturer in Physics*, 1949–'51].

Plant Pathology Department,
University of California,
Berkeley,
April 8, 1954.

Dear Editor,

The last six months have been packed with such varied experiences that it is difficult for me to decide what I should write about.

It is Springtime and the country is just beautiful with flowers. Recently I visited the Central Valley—the extensive agricultural region of California. My hostess, the Chairman of the International Relations Club of the A.A.U.W. branch, drove me through miles and miles of farm land to give me some idea of the crops grown there and the methods of cultivation. The pink blossoms of the peach trees, and the white flowered plums and almonds extending over acres and acres of land on either side of the road were, indeed, spectacular. In some places, the wild mustard in bloom presented a carpet of green and gold.

I have always been attracted by the beautiful advertisements of "sunkist oranges" in some of the American magazines that we get in India, and I took the earliest opportunity to visit the orange growing areas in Southern California. It was marvellous seeing these trees loaded with ripe oranges and many fruits strewn on the ground too. It was surprising that no one picked these fruits even though the trees were so near the road and there was no fence or any house nearby. In course of time I discovered that these roads were not frequented by pedestrians. I have not so far seen anybody walking along the highways here. Most people have their own cars and others travel by bus. Besides, people here are not starved for food and they can afford to buy any fruit they want. Moreover, I understand that mischief makers are made to pay heavy fines. The law prevents one from picking even a wild flower on the roadside—a means of preserving the beauty of the country. I must confess that I have been tempted on several occasions to trespass, but somehow managed to get over the temptation. You can well imagine me bending over a flower or straining my neck to reach a branch, trying to find out what family the flower belongs to, and sadly walking away not being able to break off a sprig for the herbarium! The beautiful trees here often recall to my mind the condition of trees on our roadsides and particularly a set of trees which I happened to see on a trip to Ikkadu, flared, girdled and hollowed out by the villagers for firewood. I fervently hope that the rural uplift work, the

grow-more-food campaign and the implementation of the various programmes of development will change conditions in our country to a great extent.

I spent the last week-end in Sebastopol, the heart of the apple growing district here. The Student World Affairs Council and the Future Farmers of America Club of the high school there had invited us—a group of twenty overseas students, to be their guests. It is about fifty miles north of San Francisco and we had the most enjoyable trip, crossing the San Francisco Bay by ferry boat and driving through the coastal ranges of California with extensive farms on either side, the hillsides brightened with California poppies and mustard. We passed through Petaluma, 'the world's egg-basket', famous for its chicken farms and hatcheries, and through Santa Rosa, the home town of Luther Burbank, the noted plant breeder. At Sebastopol, we visited various ranches (large farms) in the area. It was thrilling to see the well-fed cows grazing on the pasture land or standing in queues awaiting their turn for the milking process. In these dairy farms, milking is done by electrically controlled machines. On a chicken farm that we visited, there were hundreds of chickens in various enclosures and they had all been inoculated against disease. The eggs are cleaned by a mechanical device to enhance their keeping quality. Co-operative societies as well as private firms help the farmers in the sale of their products. I stayed on a beef-cattle ranch and learned a great deal from my hosts about farming in this area. What I enjoyed most was a visit to one of the State Parks, the Armstrong Grove of Redwoods the famous Sequoias of California. Passing through orchards, vineyards and forested hills we came to this grove and enjoyed a picnic lunch there surrounded by these giant trees which had been there for centuries. It was, indeed, a wonderful experience for me, for I had heard of these trees from the time I started my rudiments in Botany and had always cherished a desire to see them. I am told that the coastal trees are a species known as *Sequoia sempervirens*, the giant species or *Sequoia gigantea* being found only on the Western slopes of the Sierra Nevada in California. I shall be visiting one of the parks there, the Yosemite National Park, where I hope to see these giant sequoia trees and one with a road passing through it.

Probably, I have given you the idea that I spend most of my time sight-seeing. It is only during week-ends or holidays that I take these trips while the week days are devoted to study. I carry on my research work and audit courses in Mycology and Bacteriology.

I live at the International House, which is dedicated to the promotion of understanding and fellowship among peoples of all nations. There are 535 of us from different parts of the world, foreign and American students in equal proportion, living together and discovering new levels of mutual understanding and appreciation.

The people of this country are well-known for their friendliness and hospitality, and I have had a good share of it during the past few months. They are also a hard working people. Whether they are agriculturists or business men, rich or poor, they all work very hard and do their best. My visits to several industrial concerns like the S and W Fine Foods (Coffee roasting plant), the Californian and Hawaiian Sugar Refinery and the Oil Refinery of the Standard Oil Company of California, have given me some idea of the spirit of American competitive enterprise too. It is these fine qualities which have contributed to the immense progress of this young nation and the well-being of her people, and we have a great deal to learn from her.

With best wishes,

ANNA ZACHARIAH.

[*Dr. Zachariah*—1928-'32 *B.A., M.Sc. in Lucknow Unversity, Ph. D., in Madras University—was awarded a study grant for research in the University of California, by the American Association of University Women.*]

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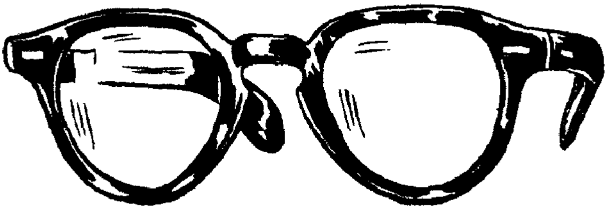

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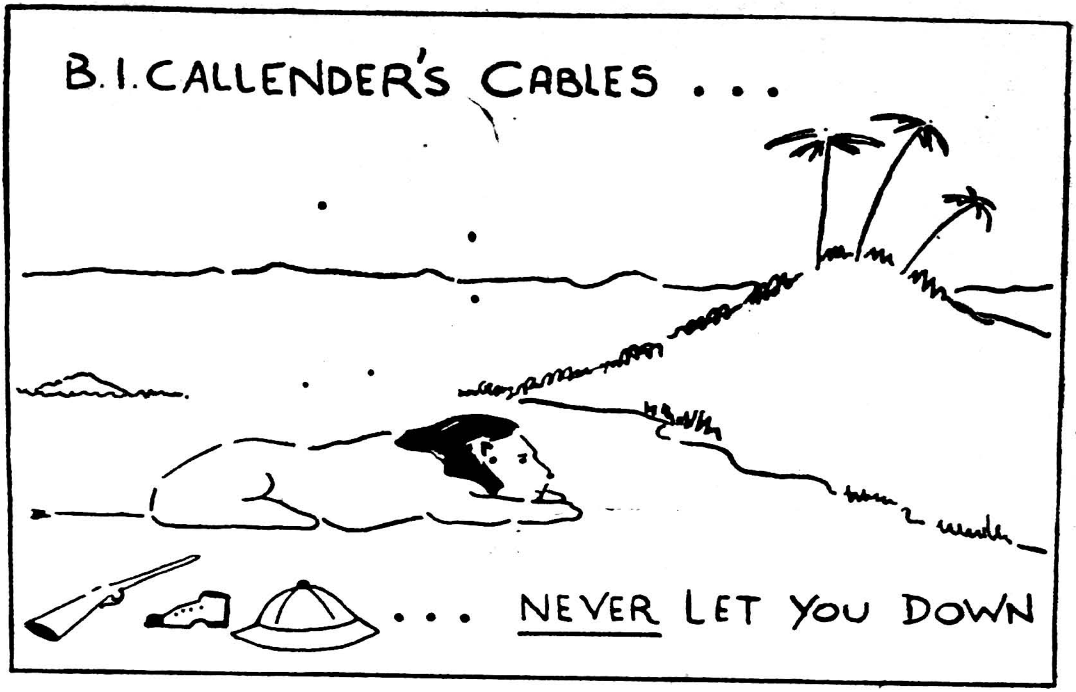

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